

THE AMERICAN

30c · OCTOBER 1976

LEGION

MAGAZINE



What's Wrong
With Postal System?

New Haband DOUBLEKNIT SLACKS with the

INDELIBLE* CREASE.

* Webster says, "Indelible - cannot be removed or washed away."

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44-45-46-47-48-49-
50-51-52-53-54.
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32-33-34.

COLOR	How Many	Waist	Inseam
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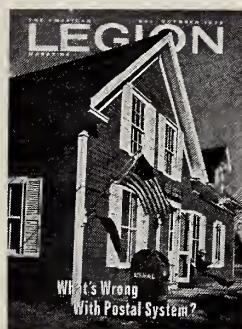
LEGION

MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 1976

Table of Contents

CANDIDATES VIEW VETERANS' ISSUES	8
Presidential rivals answer questions put by Legion	
OFF THE HIGHWAY: PARADISE COVE FOR PIONEERS	10
Rugged life is still nourished in Tennessee's Smoky Mountains	
LYNDON'S CAMEL DRIVER	12
BY FRANK KUEST Former USIA man recalls strange tie between President and Pakistani	
OUR SAD MAIL SACK	14
BY MAURY DELMAN Deficit-ridden U. S. Postal Service faces mountain of woe	
SHOULD THE FEDERAL ENERGY ADMINISTRATION BE ABOLISHED?	18
PRO: REP. FLOYD FITHIAN, D-IN CON: REP. TIM LEE CARTER, R-KY	
HOW KIDS VIEW ELECTIONS	20
Teacher recites candid classroom opinions of politics	
AID OFFERED PENNSYLVANIA VICTIMS	22
BICENTENNIAL LANDMARK: WHERE PATRIOTS PLAYED	23
A MEMORABLE BOYS/GIRLS NATION	24
AMERICAN LEGION HOLDS 58TH NATIONAL CONVENTION	25
WILLIAM ROGERS BECOMES MAINE'S FIRST NATIONAL COMMANDER	28
CONVENTION VOTES NEW MANDATES FOR AMERICAN LEGION	34
AUXILIARY ELECTS OFFICERS	40



Cover Photo

The serenity of the Prospect Harbor, ME, post office, captured in this month's cover photo by Louise Price Bell of Tucson, belies the controversy that swirls over the deficit-ridden U.S. Postal Service.

Other photo credits this month include: Hedgecoth Photographers, George Washington County, U.S. Postal Service, Shirley Starbuck, John Furney, Seattle Times.

Departments

NOTES ON OUR DESK	2	VETERANS NEWSLETTER	6
BOOKS THAT MATTER	3	LEGION SHOPPER	54
DATELINE WASHINGTON	4	PARTING SHOTS	56

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National Commander

William J. Rogers

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NOTES ON OUR DESK

In the month ahead American voters will be bombarded with the views of rival candidates for federal, state and local positions. The issues are complex. Viewpoints are inevitably colored by personal experience—or the lack of experience.

Elsewhere in this issue of The American Legion Magazine we summarize the resolutions or mandates adopted by Legionnaires in convention at Seattle in late August. They constitute the official position of the world's largest veterans organization and they represent the collective judgment of men and women who have fought our wars over the past 60 years.

But we thought we also should present the concerns of Americans too young to have known the strife of war. Here are planks from the platforms of the rival Nationalist and Federalist parties at the combined Boys Nation/Girls Nation,

sponsored this summer by The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary.

NATIONALIST PARTY

PUBLIC SAFETY—Limitation of further construction of nuclear power plants pending stricter and better safety procedures.

ENERGY CONSERVATION—Development of alternative energy resources and energy conservation programs to increase efficiency while stimulating production of oil, coal and natural gas.

FOREIGN RELATIONS—The continuance of the policy of detente with all Communist countries providing the United States receives equal benefits in all transactions.

TAX ADJUSTMENT—Encourage closing tax loopholes to extremely rich individuals and big business and an increase in inheritance tax exemption.

ECOLOGY—The preservation of the natural beauty of our nation by stricter enforcement of existing environmental laws.

AMATEUR ATHLETIC PROGRAM—Establishment of a subsidy program by the federal government to fund an expanded amateur athletic program, in order to promote U.S. role in international games such as the Olympics.

DEFENSE—Limit spending for nuclear weaponry research, and reallocate these funds toward development of conventional defensive weapons.

AID TO FARMERS—Governmental aid to small farmers to help them survive competition from corporate farms.

FEDERALIST PARTY

- Support a solution to the Panama Canal question through diplomatic negotiations.
- Renounce unlawful acts of worldwide terrorism and encourage the stiff sentencing of participants.
- Encourage and support good corporate ethics at home and abroad.
- Defense spending should maintain our status as the democratic leader of the free world.
- Affirm constitutional equality without regard to race, creed or sex.
- We support a woman's right to seek an abortion if circumstances deem necessary, yet we advocate

stronger educational programs in the areas of birth control and planned parenthood to decrease the need for abortions.

- Support a critical re-examination of the general welfare system to increase efficiency and eliminate waste.
- Support continuing research in space exploration to expand man's horizons and his knowledge of the universe.
- Encourage legislation to find alternatives to busing for the achievement of total equality in education.
- Recognize the need for a national standard for all public primary and secondary schools.

A Look at America

In his first inaugural address, George Washington had this to say about the United States:

"No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency."

Letters to the Editor

SIR: On reading "POW Fourth of July" (July) I was struck again by the different treatment of prisoners by the Germans during World War II. I was captured Jan. 6, 1945. For a month we were shuttled from camp to camp, stripped of anything of value, fed black bread and "hot-water" soup and subjected to constant interrogation. It was the end of January before we were permitted Red Cross parcels and then it was one parcel for four men. It was rough, but as a noncom I fared better than a private, infinitely better than Russian POWs who shared some camps. General Patton liberated my group at Hamelburg.

L. E. NAGEL
Ocean City, MD

SIR: The national commander is right. The Panama Canal is not negotiable (June). Public opinion polls support him. Can we consolidate this opinion into a real force to preserve U.S. control of the canal?

H. RAMSEY TERHUNE
Viewtown, VA

SIR: Forced transfer of physicians, dentists and trained technicians in VA hospitals is not in the best interest of veterans who need truly good professionals.

WILLIAM E. TWITTY
New Orleans, LA

"Hardened Wax Affected My Hearing For 35 Years!"

—writes Mrs. Dorris S. Jones,
Green Brier, Tenn.

When she went to a doctor (who specializes in treating ear disorders) Mrs. Jones adds, he "recommended Debrox" as a treatment for this condition.

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BOOKS THAT MATTER

Living With Death, by Osborn Segerberg, Jr. E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., New York, N. Y., 122 pp., \$7.50.

Death is something we all face. Not just once with our own death, but many times in our lives with the deaths of dear friends and loved family members. How we face life's greatest, most mysterious challenge, and why, are the subjects of this fascinating study.

The Week France Fell, by Noel Barber. Stein and Day, New York, NY, 307 pp., \$10.95.

The time, June 1940; the place, Paris, France; the actors, France's leading political and military figures; supporting cast, heads of the Allied and Axis powers and a handful of persons caught in the mesh of an encroaching war. As writer Noel Barber pans his word camera across the fall of France that late spring, those awesome days when the map of western Europe was about to be redrawn come vividly to life.

If there is a lesson here it is that in time of crisis don't put all your faith in government. Often it can't or won't protect you.

The Decline of Capital, by Arthur Jones. Thomas Y. Crowell, Co., New York, NY, 196 pp., \$7.95.

Is capitalism dying in the United States? According to this book it is, and with its end will come the end of our nation's great middle class. Whether you agree with the thesis presented here depends largely upon your own economic experience and outlook, but the facts offered by the author make worthwhile, thought-provoking reading.

The Great Anglo-Boer War, by Byron Farwell. Harper & Row, Pub., New York, NY, 454 pp., \$16.95.

With violence and warfare threatening in South Africa almost every day, Mr. Farwell's book gives us a fine chance to look back to that nation's earlier period of turbulence, the legendary struggle between the British and Afrikaners for domination of the country. It also provides a vivid, elucidating profile of the character of Afrikaners, who today run the Republic of South Africa. If the past truly prologues the future, any change in that country's rule will not be achieved without a monumental struggle. —*Grail Hanford*

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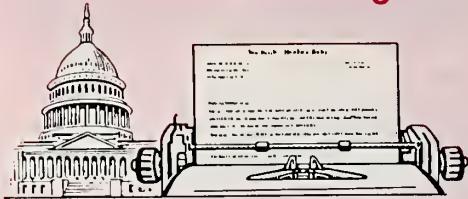
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ENDING WASTEFUL GOV'T PROGRAMS.

AUTO SAFETY DEVICES SAVE LIVES.

NAT'L DRUG ABUSE ANTIDOTE SOUGHT.

There's a strong movement afoot in Congress for so-called "sunset" legislation which would systematically review government agencies and programs not only for their proposed actions and expenditures, but also to evaluate their past programs. Others favor the "zero-based budgeting" system, which calls for reexamination of the past budget along with a close look at the new budget for each program.

Both approaches have the objective of eliminating, or cutting back, wasteful, inefficient programs. However, a recent study at Brookings Institution disclosed that governmental institutions display "impressive powers of endurance." One finding: of 175 federal organizations operating in 1923, some 85 per cent were still going 50 years later.

More than 28,000 Americans are alive today because of the auto safety standards put into effect by the federal government over the past eight years, according to a study made by the General Accounting Office, an investigative arm of Congress.

As a result of the new safety rules, auto manufacturers have had to install crash survivability equipment costing about \$8.5 billion from 1968-74.

The GAO said its study indicated that, measured against pre-1966 models, the safety equipment on the '66-'68 cars reduced motor accident deaths by 15 to 25 per cent; on '69-70 cars, by 25 to 30 per cent. But, the GAO added, there was little, if any, further improvement in the '71-'73 models. No explanation was given for this last finding.

"We have passed the point where drug abuse is a problem peculiar to certain areas or particular groups of people. It is a national problem and a national tragedy." That's the conclusion of a Senate subcommittee probing federal narcotics enforcement. It believes the central issue which Congress must examine is the lack of effectiveness of federal efforts in fighting this drug epidemic.

The Drug Enforcement Administration, set up three years ago, came under severe

subcommittee criticism for its failure to cope with the illicit narcotics trade, especially in not apprehending the big operators' financial masterminds. The subcommittee called for improved coordination of those agencies fighting drug smuggling and narcotics sales within the United States.

PEOPLE & QUOTES

TWO WRONGS

"Two ideas . . . now pervade political and social thinking. One is the idea that government can solve all problems; the second is the idea that all our problems must be solved right now . . ." Prof. Edward E. Edwards, Indiana U.

ARROGANT PRESS

"The press is not going to retain, or regain, public confidence if it is perceived to be constantly arrogant, unwilling to recognize conflicting rights, or not too concerned about maintaining the most rigid standards to protect and preserve its own integrity." John Oakes, NY Times executive.

FARM FACT

"Today's farm worker is feeding himself and 56 others." John A. Knebel, Under Sec'y of Agric.

PRESS' PLIGHT

"Too many are beginning to look on the press as a . . . shrew, nitpicking for scandals." Wes Gallagher, president, AP.

SWORD OF OPEC

"In one sense we do have a war on our hands. For the oil weapon which hangs over us like a sword can be as devastating to our way of life as bullets and bombs. And we are living each day with nations which have demonstrated their willingness to use that weapon." Frank Zarb, FEA Administrator.

U.S. LEADERSHIP

"Over the last 30 years, it has fallen to the United States to provide leadership for the Western world. . . For the sake of world peace and for the ideals we share, it is essential that this leadership continue. . ." Prime Minister J. Malcolm Fraser, Australia.

INDIVIDUAL DOOMED?

"Secularization, depersonalization, generalization and computerization between them could well destroy what is left of the individual personality." Prince Philip, U.K.

ONGOING FORCE

"The American Revolution is still going on—not because we ourselves are wise and good and helpful but because it embodies an idea that reaches everybody and will never lose its force." Bruce Catton, historian.

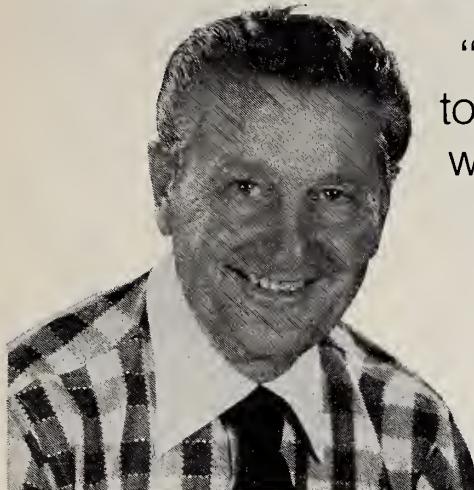
GREATNESS HAS RISK

"We cannot regain our national greatness and have a riskless society at the same time." S. I. Hayakawa, educator.

EMBARGO IMPACT

"The economic consequences of a 50 per cent effective embargo would involve a Gross National Product loss of more than \$50 billion dollars in the first year—and an associated loss of more than 1.3 million jobs." Sec'y of Commerce, Elliott L. Richardson.

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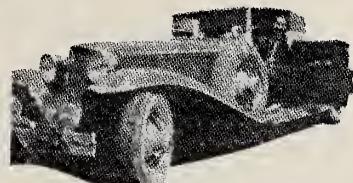
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OCTOBER, 1976

COMMANDER WILES HONORED BY BOY SCOUTS:

Outgoing National Commander Harry G. Wiles was honored with presentation of the Boy Scouts of America's "Distinguished Eagle Scout Award" during Legion's National Convention in Seattle...Award was made by Arch Monson, Jr., president of BSA, who cited "mutual interest" of Scouting and American Legion...Wiles earned his Eagle Badge in 1932 with Troop 126, Macksville, KS...For 40 years he has served Scouting in various capacities...Wiles joins other notables such as President Ford, Gen. William Westmoreland, and astronaut Neil Armstrong in receiving the high Scout award.



Wiles as Eagle Scout

LEGION CONSIDERS SUPPORT FOR INDIANS WHO FACE RELOCATION: The American Legion has agreed to study the plight of northern Arizona Indians fighting a federal law requiring a massive relocation. The Seattle Convention asked the Legislative Commission to report on Public Law 93-531 which authorizes the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs to relocate 150,000 Indians, among them 14,000 veterans.

Indian delegates from Indian Wells, AR, Chase & Nelson Post 71 said Indians are living on lands inherited from their forefathers and that the law, if enforced, would cut their 33,000-head sheep herd to 1,200.

Bringing their case before the convention were Jim Begay, District 6 committeeman; Lemuel Yazzie, post adjutant; Chester T. Morris, post commander; Lawrence Thomas, finance officer; Chaplain Gordon Franklin.

CZ COMMANDER HITS CANAL GIVEAWAY PLAN:

Jorge Martinez, Canal Zone Department Commander, voiced strong opposition to any change in status of Panama Canal during Legion National Convention at Seattle... Supporting Legion's position, Martinez said: "Our department will fight any effort to negotiate away the United States sovereignty to the bitter end." He added: "There is no way that we will ever support the surrender of the Panama Canal."



Jorge Martinez

U.S. LABOR DEPARTMENT, ILLINOIS PLACE NEW EMPHASIS ON VETERAN EMPLOYMENT: Labor De-

partment's regional office in Chicago has established a Region V Interagency Jobs for Veterans Committee to promote hiring of veterans in government and private industry...Action was prompted by relatively high unemployment rate among ex-servicemen...Working in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, the Committee will focus on younger veterans (ages 20-24) and disabled veterans since unemployment is highest in these groups...Participating are Health, Education and Welfare, Commerce Department, Defense Department, Veterans Administration and National Alliance for Businessmen...Meanwhile, Illinois Governor Walker signed legislation for improving veteran employment opportunities by assigning veteran's employment representatives to each of the 70 full service offices of the Illinois State Employment Service.

BUS DRIVER GETS LEGION'S HIGHEST AWARD:

Ed Ray

Wearing the Silver Medal for Valor, the American Legion's highest award, Ed Ray reflects experiences which brought him this and other top honors during "Ed Ray and Children's Day" held at Chowchilla, CA...Ray was honored for leading 26 Chowchilla school children out of buried moving van where they were held by kidnapers...W. R. Wharton, Commander of California Department's 12th District, gave Ray the Legion award...Ray also was praised by President Ford, FBI Director Kelley, Congress and Chowchilla officials.

CALIFORNIA POST WINS BASEBALL SERIES:

Post 123, Santa Monica, CA, won the American Legion baseball World Series at Manchester, NH, with a thrilling 7-6 victory over Post 36, Des Plaines, IL. Post 43, Warwick, RI, took third place. The series drew over 32,000 fans, the second highest attendance since World War II.

Richard Schroeder, who pitched a 10-inning, 1-0 no-hitter against Post 5, Cedar Rapids, to help Santa Monica to the finals, was the winning pitcher in the championship game...Gus Malespin, outfielder for Post 175, Metairie, LA, was voted player of the year. Mike Boddicker, Cedar Rapids' pitcher, won the sportsman of the year award.

Other teams in the tournament were defending champion Post 36, Yakima, WA; Post 30, Wilmington Manor, DE, and Post 39, Manati, PR.

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Candidates View Veterans' Issues

Ford

1. The Veterans Administration hospitals should *not* lose their identity or integrity under any circumstances . . . I have asked in my last two budget submissions for approximately 11,500 new staff positions for the VA medical care program, and I also have asked for close to \$900 million for needed hospital repairs and construction. My 1977 budget request of over \$4 billion for VA medical care was a record high figure.

My decision in May to seek fund-



President Ford

ing for construction of seven major replacement VA hospitals and one new hospital also is a reflection of my continuing commitment to quality medical care for veterans.

The whole question of a comprehensive health insurance program is one which should be approached with some degree of caution. We must pay particular attention to how such a plan would affect VA Health Care Systems. The care of veterans with service-connected disabilities should remain one of the prime missions of the Veterans Administration.

2. Those who have served our nation, especially in times of war, have earned our respect and merit a special commitment from their fellow citizens. My budget requests for the VA the last two years include record sums for the medical care and construction programs and substantial allocations to other aspects of the total VA program.

(Continued on next page)

Questions Put By Legion

These are the questions that The American Legion Magazine posed to the Republican and Democratic nominees for President:

1. The American Legion has long been concerned that a national health care program might infringe on Veterans Administration programs and the VA hospital system. Would veterans' facilities remain separate in any national health program your administration might develop?

2. Do you feel that the U.S. commitment to veterans, as contained in various legislation enacted since World War I, should be expanded, reduced or maintained at its present level? Should the principle of veterans preference be maintained in federal employment?

3. The American Legion is concerned about recurring reports that there is a shortage of qualified physicians and technical personnel at VA hospitals because of salary disparities between the public and private sector. What would you do to correct this situation?

4. The vast majority of veterans hold honorable discharges from our services. If "amnesty" or a "pardon" was granted to draft evaders or deserters, should these individuals be entitled to all the rights and benefits earned by men and women who served their full tour of duty?

5. The forgotten veterans are those who served their country faithfully in Vietnam. Inflation and the residue of an unpopular war have left many of these veterans embittered about the level of federal benefits and lack of suitable employment. What can be done to rectify this situation?

Carter

1. The medical care available to veterans must always be second to none. At present such high quality, specialized care is only possible through the VA hospital system. Unless continued delivery of such high quality, specialized care could be guaranteed, I would favor retaining the independence of the VA hospital system.

2. We cannot compromise our existing commitment to veterans of previous wars. The benefits histori-



Governor Carter

cally available to war veterans should be maintained and in some cases improved. The principle of preference for war veterans in federal employment should be maintained.

3. We must insure that VA health care is the best available. In cases where salaries and benefits are inadequate to attract qualified physicians and technicians, I would propose legislation to remedy the shortage.

4. I propose to pardon those who refused to enter military service. Obviously, those who never served would be entitled to no veterans' benefits. For those who were given less than honorable discharge, I intend to complete a fair and thorough case-by-case review. I do not believe that deserters should be entitled to all the rights and benefits earned by men and women who served their full tour of duty.

5. I believe we can do much to

(Governor Carter's answers continued)

improve the status of the forgotten veterans who served in Vietnam. We should begin by vigorously implementing the law requiring hiring preference for Vietnam veterans. Benefit levels need to be adjusted to protect veterans benefits against inflation. The period of eligibility for benefits should be extended, so that those Vietnam veterans who have not been fully reintegrated into our society can receive further help. If elected, my administration will try to assure that Vietnam veterans are not forgotten but are given the same honors and benefits as those who fought in earlier wars.

(President Ford's answers continued)

I want to assure you that this Administration is firmly committed to the principle of veterans' preference in federal employment... We do believe, however, consistent with our proposals for termination of the G.I. Bill, that there should not be a veterans' preference for those who will enter a volunteer military service and serve only in peacetime.

3. The quality and the necessary quantity of health care professionals required by our veterans' hospitals is a matter of great and continuing concern to me... I was very pleased to sign last year the VA Physicians' Pay Bill—making the compensation of these members of the VA's health care team competitive with that of the uniformed service physicians in the military and the Public Health Service...

Since 1969 average employment in the VA health care system has increased by over 40,000. This has had a positive impact on the quality of care delivered. It has also meant that lengths of stay in VA hospitals have been materially shortened...

4. The question of "amnesty" or "pardon" for draft evaders or those who deserted from the military services is somewhat moot as far as I am concerned. In September 1974, in recognition of the sincere concern on the part of the families of these individuals, and in the face of equally sincere opposition from others, I established a Clemency Program.

Before that program came to an end on March 31, 1975, after a 60-day extension beyond the original date, some 21,500 individuals had applied for consideration. Those who applied to the Clemency Board and met its requirements did not, under my program, thereby qualify for veterans' benefits.

I have no further plans at this

time for a resumption of that program nor do I anticipate any similar action in the foreseeable future.

5. These are not forgotten veterans and the Government has recognized and has tried to respond to their needs. This Administration has taken numerous actions to increase existing benefits and provide new benefits for the Vietnam veterans. But, we again must keep in mind that our resources are not unlimited.

With respect to employment, there has been emphasis by all the agencies of the Federal Government on

hiring Vietnam veterans. The Department of Labor works closely with State agencies and the private business sector in locating jobs for these veterans. Also, the Government has sponsored "job fairs" throughout the country where employer and prospective employee come together.

To help explain to veterans their rights and handle their problems, we have established an outreach program in the Veterans Administration in which representatives go out into the community to seek out veterans and apprise them of their rights.

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Off The Highway

Paradise Cove for Pioneers



Haze veils Smokies and vivid mountain laurel (inset)

For almost 100 years Becky Cable lived in the house her daddy built in a paradise of a valley in the Great Smoky Mountains. For more than a century the front room of the house has been a store. Teams of oxen used to pull Becky's supplies from Knoxville, TN, over the high mountain passes.

Becky is gone now, but the little house at Cades Cove, TN, still dispenses hand-ground cornmeal to visitors and has become a focal point in the 800-square-mile Great Smoky National Park, the most visited park in the federal system.

In the early 1800's, English, Scottish and German settlers explored the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee for home sites. Cades Cove became the paradise for a handful, with rich land to nourish cattle and grow crops, plenty of water and tall timber for homesteads.

The niche in the Great Smokies draws its name from the wife of Abram, a chief of the Chilowee Indians. The woman befriended the set-

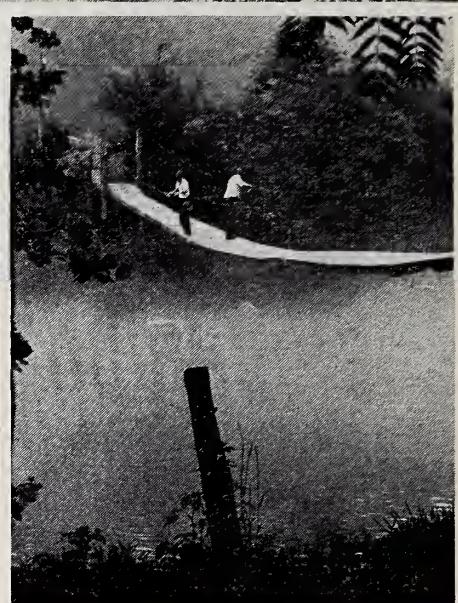
ters and they affectionately dubbed her "Kate" and named their settlement Kate's Cove. The years filtered the name to Cades Cove.

The area also claims such picturesque names as Crooked Arm Ford, Tater Branch, Sorgum Hill and Abram Falls.

The National Park Service maintains the area today and nurtures the more than 1,300 species of flowering plants native to the Smokies, including the spectacular mountain laurel. In truth, the region has become a great open-air museum on which the mountain mists rise and fall each day, revealing, then hiding, a living episode in early American history.

Kinfolk of early settlers, under Park Service supervision, live on the land and perpetuate old farming ways and frontier skills, remembering the charge: "make it yourself, or do without."

A visitor can reach Cades Cove by driving northeast from Knoxville to Townsend, then ten miles on Cades Cove Road. —*Harriet Hedgecoth*



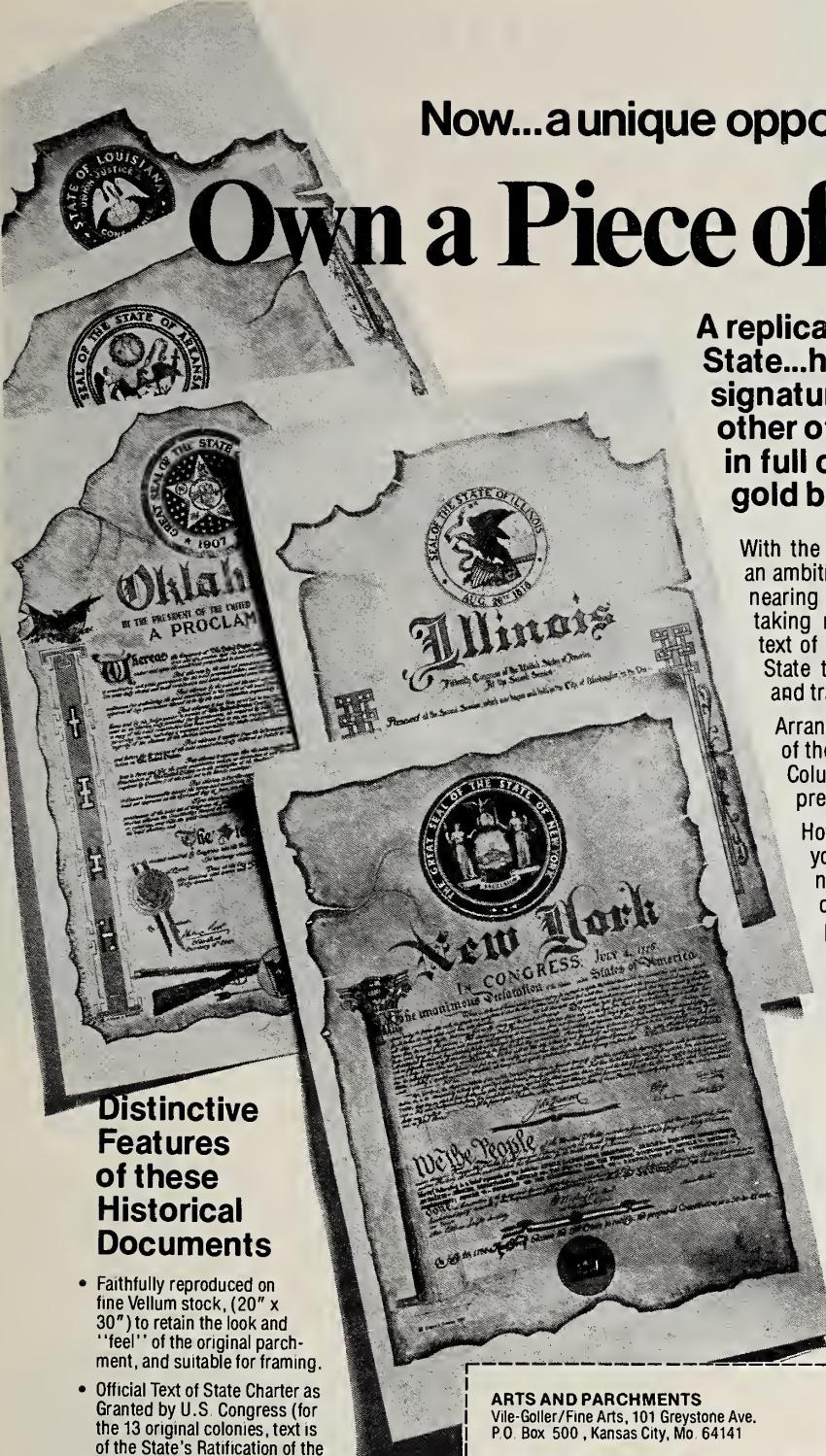
Bridge at Townsend, TN



Becky Cable's store



Blacksmith shop at Cades Cove



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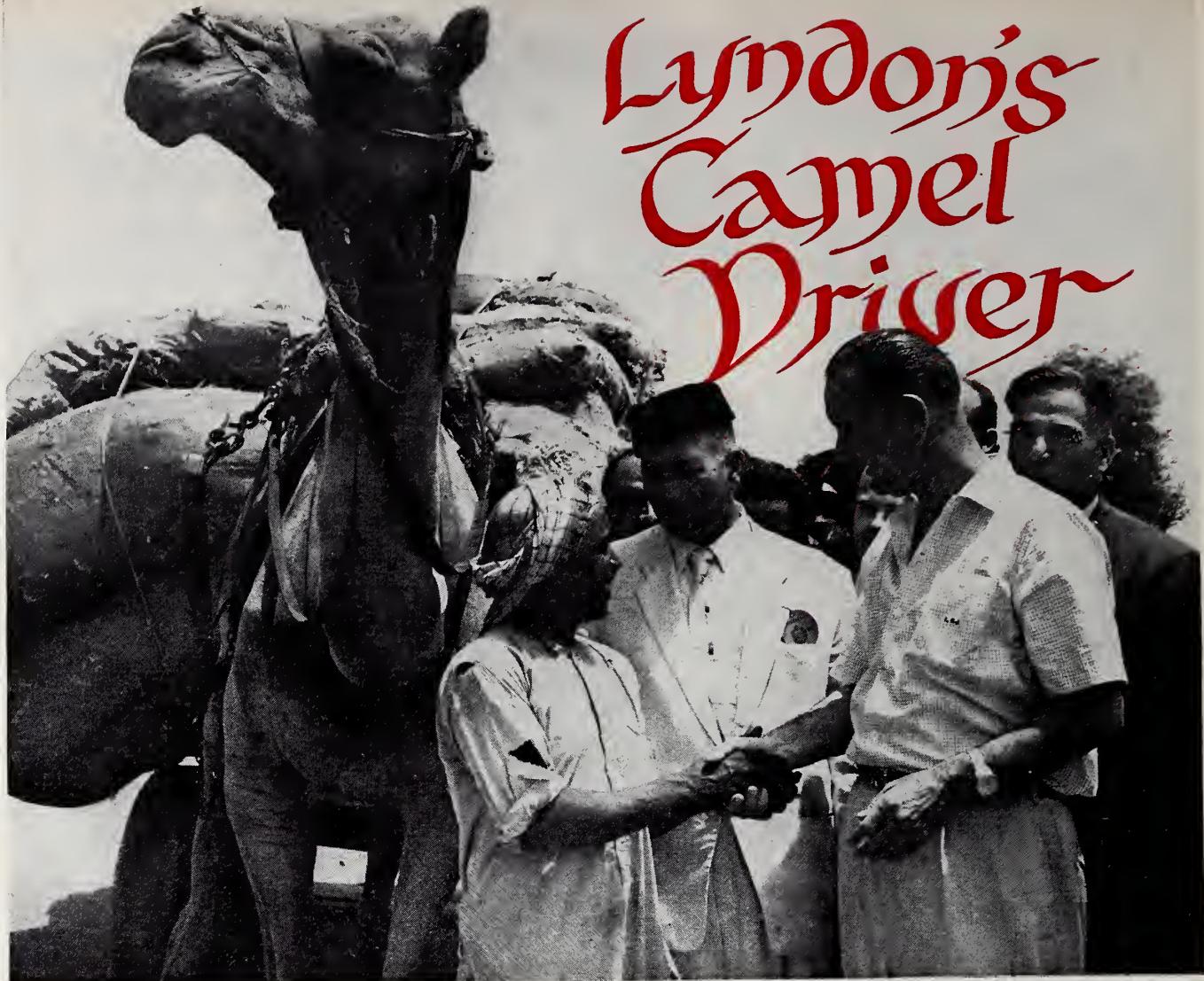
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Lyndon Johnson meets Bashir Ahmed, the camel driver, in Karachi, Pakistan

By FRANK KUEST

IT WAS OFTEN SAID that President John F. Kennedy preferred his Vice President, Lyndon Baines Johnson, to be on the road rather than in Washington.

Thus it was that LBJ undertook a whirlwind tour of the Far East and South Asia in the spring of 1961, which was to culminate in one of the most unique relationships between him and a lowly, illiterate camel driver—much to the annoyance of Kennedy.

Johnson's route along the underbelly of the Asian continent was hot and humid, so LBJ introduced a first for an American official in this region—shirt-sleeve "diplomacy" meeting and greeting tens of thousands of Asians from all ranks in an open, short-sleeved shirt.

The masses en route were bewildered and pleased by this friendly-appearing man. Their rulers were more than a little irritated by the Johnson performance.

But the Johnson odyssey to Asia

was attracting little attention back home until his VIP 707 touched down on a seething hot day at the civil airport in Karachi, Pakistan. It was the last stop before the Vice President's entourage headed back to Washington.

The Johnson motorcade was speeding down Drigh Road from the airport to the President's House in downtown Karachi when suddenly, there was a screech of red-hot tires and the 30-car motorcade skidded to a halt in front of a thatched tea house halfway into the city. The tea house was the break point for the camel carts that moved between the teeming city and the truck gardens at Landhi, a produce-growing settlement about 15 miles from Karachi. Johnson ordered the caravan to stop when he saw the first camel he had ever seen outside a zoo. The Vice President jumped out of his car, hurdled a pile of dung and headed straight for a grinning camel driver standing in front of his animal.

"How are you-all?" Johnson drawled, grabbing Bashir Ahmed's

grimy hand and pumping it profusely.

After a moment of chitchat through interpreters, the Vice President turned on his heel, muttering to Bashir, the camel driver, as he did to all, "If you-all ever come to Washington, look me up."

That was that. Several days later Mr. Johnson left for home and U.S. diplomats returned to their ties and jackets.

William E. Hutchinson, deputy director of the U.S. Information Service returned to his air-conditioned office in the American Embassy, then located in Karachi, to resume his reading of Urdu, the national language of Pakistan written in Arabic script. He started puzzling through a column in the newspaper, *Jang*, written by Ibrahim Jolise, considered the Art Buchwald of Pakistan.

It appeared to Hutchinson that Jolise was fantasizing about a down-trodden camel driver visiting the United States as the guest of the Vice President. The article with all the trappings of a tale of the Ara-



Bashir holds keys to truck

bian Nights was based on Johnson's farewell remark to Bashir.

Hutchinson sent the column downstairs to the Embassy's press section for a complete, accurate translation.

Indeed, it was the fantasy of a camel driver who became the guest of the American Vice President.

Hutchinson routinely sent the translation to Washington as part of the Embassy's report on the Johnson visit to Pakistan. It reached the Vice President's desk. Back came a cabled rocket to the Embassy from Johnson. "Arrange to have Bashir Ahmed meet me on the steps of Independence Hall in Philadelphia July 4."

For three weeks, diplomacy at the Embassy was thrown to the hot winds that blew in from the Sind Desert. Feverish preparations were made to meet Johnson's command.

Then all hell broke loose. Johnson had neglected to inform the White House of his invitation to Bashir and the White House had invited President Mohammed Ayub Khan of Pa-

kistan to pay a state visit to the United States in July.

From Rawalpindi, then the provisional capital, came word to the White House that Ayub Khan was not about to compete with a down-trodden Bashir Ahmed for public attention in the United States.

President Kennedy reportedly "blew his stack" and ordered Johnson to cancel the camel driver's trip. Johnson did.

Ayub Kahn did come to the United States and he became the first foreign head of state ever to be feted at a state dinner on the lawn of Mount Vernon. It was a historic first for Kennedy and the Pakistani President and a social triumph for Jacqueline Kennedy.

Ayub left town satisfied that the United States was indeed a friend, a loyal ally and a munificent benefactor. He had received a gift of

tude of the upper strata of Pakistani society, which frowned on the entire episode. But the Pakistani masses were overjoyed at Bashir Ahmed's good fortune.

The intelligence agents abducted Bashir from a parade honoring him in downtown Karachi with thousands lining the route cheering their "hero."

The agents grilled Bashir for hours. The inquisition centered on the burning issue confronting Pakistan and India—Kashmir.

But Bashir held his ground, answering every question with: "Kashmir is a beautiful land. I don't know anything about politics."

In exasperation the agents released Bashir in time to make the plane for the United States and his appointment with LBJ.

The rest is history. Bashir Ahmed was a smash hit in the United States,



Lyndon Johnson escorts Bashir through the Texas State Fair at Dallas

four C-130 Hercules aircraft for his air force.

But Vice President Johnson had not forgotten his camel driver. As autumn's first winds cooled off the White House, he repeated his command to the Embassy in Karachi: "Send Bashir Ahmed to me in October." The Embassy did.

Pan-American Airways picked up the round-trip flight tab, including a side trip to Mecca—a dream of all Moslems. The Embassy outfitted Bashir from foot to head and the Vice Presidential guest-to-be was briefed at the Embassy.

But Ayub Kahn's Pakistani intelligence agency was not happy. Its agents let it be known that the government did not want to see a mere camel driver become an ambassador—official, unofficial, goodwill or otherwise. This also reflected the atti-

meeting virtually every American of note. He even visited the late President Truman in Independence, MO, and was wined, dined and feted at the LBJ ranch. He received bountiful gifts, including a Ford pickup truck. For Johnson, it was the public relations coup of his too-short Vice Presidency.

Liz Carpenter, the Ms. Boswell of the Johnson family and now a vice president of the Hill and Knowlton, Inc., public relations firm, was on the trip.

Liz reminisced about the camel driver experience in another way, because of the attendant publicity that ensued as the result of Johnson's rather offhand invitation.

Liz comments:

"The Vice President told me, 'I don't want that man (Bashir) dis-
(Continued on page 50)



Bashir signs book at Truman Library



What's Wrong? OUR SAD MAIL SACK

YOU DON'T have to be a mail carrier or a letter writer to know that the U. S. Postal System is in trouble. The \$13 billion-a-year operation currently faces a \$1.3 billion deficit. It lost \$988.8 million last year. Like a bloodied club fighter, it invokes the question: how long can it stand up at all?

Who's throwing the punches?

Nearly everybody.

Both houses of Congress are thoroughly disenchanted. Constituents want their mail delivered quickly and accurately; too seldom are they satisfied. An indignant press seldom writes a merciful line in the postal service's defense. Cartoonists with razor-sharp pens draw blood almost every day. Even the White House, sensing the magnitude of the postal problems, has sidestepped public discussion.

Meanwhile, Joe Doe, citizen, experiences just enough late, damaged and missent mail to confirm his suspicions that the system seems bound to get worse.

The business community has been forced to employ other delivery services and electronic communication.

The barrage of criticism can no longer be ignored by postal management. Postmaster General Benjamin Bailer has launched a series of speeches trying to point out that our postal notions are as outdated as the Pony Express.

Bailer's speeches usually include elementary discussions of the economics of inflation and the effects of volume on price. The solution to our postal woes, as he sees it, is a hard-headed revision of postal services on strict cost-to-benefit considerations, higher postal rates for many services, and more appropriations from Congress. Bailer categorically denies that the performance of the postal corporation has been a failure.

"...Nor do I think that 533 members of Congress would have been able to surpass our record of the last five years—to promote 14,000 postmasters solely on merit, reduce man years by 4½ per cent, and negotiate with unions representing 600,000 employees," he says. "In its short lifetime, the Postal Service has successfully produced many reforms that Congress mandated."

While Bailer is busy putting his best public relations foot forward, disturbing facts continue to confront the citizen and government. The postal system faces an awesome debt and no immediate reversal is seen. Sophisticated mechanization has not brought the benefits promised. In

One worker operates automated postal cancelling machine but savings are elusive

some aspects, automation was attempted with so much zeal and so little common sense that the result has been contra-productive. While salaries and opportunities are better today than ever in postal history, morale is perhaps at its lowest ebb. The National Bulk Mailing System—which emphasizes centralized handling of bulk mail, has been plagued by controversy over increased damages, lost shipments and—even worse. Rep. John H. Rousselot (R-CA) protests that one incident in which 3.5 million pieces of mail were damaged was dismissed as “an isolated experience” by a postal official.

“This cannot be written off as the trivial price to pay for new mechanization—it can’t and shouldn’t be watered down,” Rousselot said.

All of the 21 bulk mail centers, he says, have substantial problems. Rousselot distrusts the statistics offered on the volume of mail the postal system is currently handling. The smaller post offices are prone to give an honest count but the large facilities located in principal cities are less forthright, he says. By swelling the count, they would be in a better position to request fatter subsidies. To emphasize the deteriorated service offered by the postal service, Rousselot points out that no less than 22 Federal agencies use United Parcel Service for speed and reliability.

James H. Rademacher, president of National Association of Letter Carriers and arch enemy of the “new management breed” brought into the postal system since 1970, does agree with Bailer that the inflationary spiral is at the core of

How American Postal Rates Compare With Other Countries

	DATA YEAR	VOLUME (BILLIONS)	EMPLOYEES	PRODUCTIVITY (pieces/empl.)	CURRENT RATES
Australia	74/75	2.5	31,526	79,300	22.9¢
Canada	74	5.4	47,447 ²⁾	113,823	8.0
France	73/74	10.5	236,930	44,317	18.0
W. Germany	74	12.1	220,236	54,941	19.5
Britain	73/74	11.1	199,610	55,608	17.3
Italy	70	6.4	149,964	42,677	20.3
Japan	73	14.1	133,755	105,417	16.6
Netherlands	72	3.3	34,022	96,996	20.7
Switzerland	73/74	3.6	34,217	105,211	15.5
USA	74	89.2	702,257	127,019	13.0

postal problems. Rademacher points out that the Postal Service was born during the five most inflationary years in our history. With any other five years, we might not have had this problem.

As of July 1, the postal system was bankrupt, running on minus equity. (If the system sold all its assets it would still owe \$1.3 billion!)

Rademacher does not assign the problem to wage increases. He points to other costs such as gasoline for the 220,000 vehicles driven by the postal service. Every penny-a-gallon increase jumps the annual gas bill by \$3.5 million annually. Rademacher categorically denies that today's postal worker is less productive. In fact, he contends, management's zeal to heighten productivity is over-taxing his people. When a letter carrier retires, he says, his eight hours daily are often divided among the residual work force.

When the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 was adopted, few could foresee the scenario that lay ahead. The postal system was to be financially self-sufficient by 1984. If it was not in the black, certainly it would break even. To accomplish this, the system was removed from direct congressional control and structured as a quasi-private corporation. (The argument was that private enterprise always performs better than undertakings attempted by federal agencies.) Political patronage was ended. Given the chance to function free of congressional yoke, advocates said, the restructured postal system could move forward with new management talent which would utilize sophisticated mechanization and avant-garde approaches to handling and routing our mail.

Five years later, the American postal dream has become a nightmare. Both parties, Congress and the executive feel trapped. President Ford fought long against more subsidy. Without financial assistance, however, cutbacks in service are inevitable. And reduced services and closed post offices send constituents clamoring to their Congressmen. This is especially true outside urban areas where voters have a more personal tie with their representatives.

“Government Affairs Report,” the newsletter of the Direct Mail/Marketing Association, Inc., headquartered in Washington, D. C., says without new subsidies “the USPS would simply become mired in deeper debt and service would dwindle to unacceptable levels. Such consequences would then play into the hands of those . . . heedless of the ‘public service’ aspects of USPS, who wish to smash the postal monopoly and turn all or substantial portions of this \$14-billion communication network over to private industry . . .”

“If General Motors were running the Postal Service,” said Bailer in a



Letter carrier is still USPS backbone—and he hears plenty of criticism

Wall Street Journal interview, "it wouldn't deliver to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. We do."

A private firm in Pittsburg, KS ran head-on into Postal Service court action when it offered three-day-a-week mail delivery at 3 cents a letter.

In 1737, when Benjamin Franklin was appointed postmaster at Philadelphia, he set up services that delivered a letter from Boston to New York in two weeks; from New York to Williamsburg, VA, in one week. Postage ranged from 8 cents to 25 cents, depending on the distance.

In 1969, the Government Accounting Office says, it took 1.5 days for the average first class letter to reach its destination. The 1975 average was 1.65 days and it has probably worsened.

In 1975, mail volume dropped 2 per cent (\$100 million in revenue, 832 million pieces)—the first drop since the Great Depression. Some reflected the business recession, but some must be traced to the public's growing lack of confidence in the Postal System. Despite the fact that two-thirds of the mail is generated by businesses, the average U.S. family in 1975 paid \$37.50 in postal subsidies. USPS is currently receiving 1.7 million complaints a year. That's 5,000 a day.

Postal Service revenues also are being eroded by the fast-growing parcel services. United Parcel Service carried 798 million packages last year at fees 15 to 20 percent below parcel post. New airline package services, including the all-parcel Federal Air Express, have joined the competition. Time Magazine has been investigating private delivery if postal rates are increased again. Banks are turning more and more to helicopters and airplanes to expedite check clearances.

Rep. Paul Simon (D-IL) in an article in *The New Republic*, calls for restructuring the postal system and elimination of the board of governors. Simon wants a postmaster general appointed by the President. Currently board members are paid \$10,000 a year plus \$300 a day for attending meetings. The system looks good on paper, but right now the postmaster general and general counsel Louis Cox run the shop. The board of governors is window dressing.

If the Postal Rate Commission balked at awarding postal hikes, it got its cue from the President. Speaking before a group of magazine publishers in a late 1975 White House meeting, Ford said, ". . . If we don't keep the pressure on them, you know how things operate in government,



Unique post office stops tourists in California's redwood country

This Post Office Stops Traffic

The heart of Northern California's fabled redwood country boasts a tiny one-of-a-kind post office. It looks like an overgrown Christmas package with exact replicas of U.S. postage stamps painted on its red sides.

The building, about the size of a small freight car, was given its unique look by local artists, members of the Southern Humboldt County Art Association, as a Postal Week project in April 1973. Using ordinary house paint, the artists achieved almost photographic quality. The post office stands a tribute to the late Carole Floyd, a postal clerk and president of the art association.

It carries the legend "Phillipsville, CA (Pop. 250)." Phillipsville's first post office was opened in 1900. It now greets tourists who turn off U.S.

and that's one of the basic problems in (the financial crisis) in New York City. Nobody really put the screws on them until this year, and now they are faced with reality. I think the Post Office Department—management and labor—has to face up to that reality as well . . ."

From 1970 to 1975 salaries of unionized postmen escalated some 60 per cent. The mean salary of a mail carrier today is \$13,800. Much of the higher wage rate is hooked to cost-of-living increases.

The system says it spends 86 per cent of its operating capital for labor. It is easy to understand how it bankrupted when one accepts the fact that the Postal Service cannot truly operate as a business.

In the private sphere, successful businesses do not undertake unprofitable operations unless doing so serves to insure the continuance of other profitable operations. Business can raise and lower prices in accordance with the demands of the marketplace. The Postal Service cannot operate in this way. Nor can its

101 for a scenic 28-mile drive along what is called the Avenue of the Giants.

The Avenue tunnels through the cool, dark forest, snakes under the new U.S. 101 freeway twice and offers vistas of the Eel River. One redwood, the Immortal Tree, stands 258 feet tall and is estimated to be 350 years old. Visitors also are drawn to a room within a living redwood burl. It is 20 feet in diameter and is called the Eternal Tree House because its age is estimated at 3,500 years. The comfortable auto trip also takes one to Rockefeller Forest and the Garden Club of America Grove, two outstanding examples of redwood. The city of Eureka, "Capital of the Redwood Empire," is only an hour or so away.—Edward Thomas

public service aspect be disregarded.

Then why was the Postal Reorganization Act voted by Congress in 1970? The answer is set forth clearly and candidly in congressional report "Problems of the U. S. Postal Service." It draws this picture of the old Post Office Department:

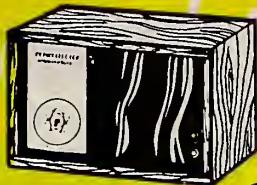
"A management system that rendered impotent those in a position of responsibility; an antiquated physical plant incapable of handling the ever-increasing volume of mail; a lack of mechanization necessitating vast armies of people to move mails, and a workforce that suffered from poor pay, poor working conditions, poor career opportunities, and poor morale. In the post office's last year of operation (Fiscal 1971), it lost \$204 million. The magnitude of these problems would prove to be an awesome burden on any group regardless of their individual or collective talents!"

Most of us have little knowledge of the complexity of moving mail. We are peeved when mail is missent,

(Continued on page 21)

STOP BURGLARS

Before they get inside.



PERIMITECTOR
Reg. U.S. Patent Office

PERIMITECTOR is the world's most versatile and effective solid-state alarm system. It's the fastest selling Modular burglar alarm because it works. Perimitector provides perimeter protection that stops burglars on the outside before they get inside, **ECONOMICALLY**. Compares with conventional systems costing over \$2,000. Perimitector suggested retail—under \$500. See your authorized Perimitector Dealer or contact Nationwide Scientific for the location of your local Perimitector, Pyro/Sygnal dealer.



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WHEN YOU'RE AWAY"

The Invisible Eye is one of the most effective security devices available. When activated, it fills the protected area with an invisible electronic screen that detects the slightest movement. This screen extends from floor-to-ceiling and from wall-to-wall. It cannot be seen, felt, or heard, and it cannot be avoided. When mounted properly, it is virtually impossible to go over, under, or around. Any movement whatsoever will activate the alarm.

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FEATURES: A.C. w/Battery stand-by • Remote capabilities • Built-in "Blaster" electronic siren • N/O • N/C Terminals • Residential or commercial models available

PYRO



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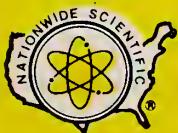
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Should the Federal Energy

Millions of tax dollars can be saved and hundreds of federal bureaucrats can be eliminated if we abolish the Federal Energy Administration.

In addition, this would lessen the impact of special interest influence in government, leading to a more rational long-range energy policy to guide our nation into the 21st century.

Unless Congress acts to extend its life, the FEA will go out of existence next year. I think that we should let it expire, for several reasons:

1.) It's too expensive. If the FEA is abolished and its key functions transferred to existing offices, we could save more than \$75 million in tax dollars each year. That might not sound like much money to the bureaucrats in Washington, but to the people I represent in Indiana, it's a lot. I think it's worth saving.

2.) It's not necessary. The U.S. government has 21 separate offices, departments and agencies dealing with energy, in addition to the FEA. Agencies such as the Energy Research and Development Administration, the Federal Power Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of the Interior already have some responsibilities which FEA is duplicating. I have presented a plan to the Congress to transfer a few of the FEA's activities to these agencies in an orderly manner and eliminate the needless functions.

3.) It's wedded to special interests. At least 65 top-level FEA employees once were employed by oil companies. It's no wonder FEA actions seem to have been concocted in the board rooms of Exxon or Texaco. In fact, the No. 1 industrial corporation in the United States, Exxon, also is No. 1 in former employees working for the government. Nowhere is this link between big oil and big government more apparent than in the FEA.

4.) It was established by law as a temporary

agency. Congress created the FEA during the Arab oil embargo and set its termination date as last June 30. At the direction of Congress, FEA's first employees were borrowed from other agencies. By this time it has mushroomed to more than 3,400 bureaucrats, with one public relations expert for every 30 staff members.

5.) It has changed its function, without legal authority to do so. As the oil crisis eased and FEA had less to do analytically, it turned to self-promotion for survival. That explains the big public relations staff, costing taxpayers \$3.5 million per year. They crank out press releases, film spots, pamphlets and books, including one booklet which was so blatantly political that Judge John Sirica found it to be in violation of the law which prohibits federal agencies from using tax money to lobby Congress.

Americans are being choked by over-regulation, bureaucratic overreach and excessive government spending. Taming the bureaucratic monster in Washington won't be easy, but we can take a big first step by abolishing the Federal Energy Administration.

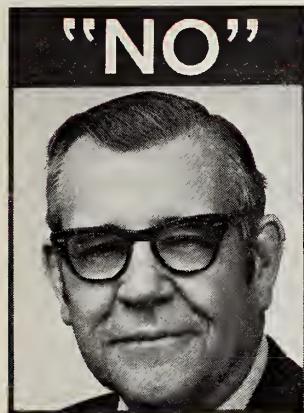
"YES"



Rep. Floyd J. Fithian
(D-IN)

If you wish to let your Congressman or one of your Senators know how you feel on this

Administration Be Abolished?



Rep. Tim Lee Carter
(R-KY)

Years ago, when coal-fired stoves provided most home heating, many country people would store their stove in their barn during warm weather. Come wintertime, it would be moved indoors and set up, and then in the spring it would be dismantled and stored once again. Inevitably, some people would fail to gauge the onset of winter accurately and not have their stove set up when cold weather settled in to stay. And in the spring, many of those same people would be in a rush to remove their stove; invariably, the last snowfall of the season would catch them without heat.

Sometimes it seems there are direct descendants of these old-timers in Congress.

The Federal Energy Administration was created in the aftermath of the panic brought on by the OPEC oil embargo. Now that the urgency of the "energy crisis" appears to have abated somewhat, some Members of Congress want to dismantle the one agency that holds hope for protection from continued worsening energy problems.

FEA was established in May 1974. At that time, many believed our energy problems would prove to be only temporary and easily remedied. On this basis, FEA was delegated to handle problems stemming from the impact of the embargo. Quickly, however, Congress began assigning additional and long-term tasks to this "temporary" agency.

First piled onto FEA were the responsibilities spelled out in the Emergency Petroleum Allocation

Act, then came the Energy Supply and Environmental Coordination Act, followed by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. These laws, which address critical and long-range problems, detail the goals of energy conservation, increased domestic supplies consistent with environmental safeguards and lessened U.S. dependence on foreign petroleum sources. We cannot now abandon FEA without sacrificing what progress has been made toward these goals.

There is no doubt that our oil reserves are running out; in fact, we are now more dependent on imported oil than before the embargo. Through continued FEA guidance, we must practice greater energy conservation while developing new sources. As Admiral Rickover has stressed, our U.S. fleet should be nuclear powered to assure defense of this country in case of another oil embargo. Our very critical task is to develop these additional sources of supply, especially solar energy, so that our sovereignty as a nation may be maintained.

Quite clearly we are far from solving our energy problems and, if anything, are slipping further behind. We cannot dismantle our only present protection, the FEA, knowing that the "winter" is far from over.

Tim Lee Carter

A handwritten signature of Tim Lee Carter, appearing to read "Tim Lee Carter". To the right of the signature is a stylized, handwritten flourish or signature mark.

I have read in The American Legion Magazine for October the arguments in PRO & CON: "Should the Federal Energy Administration Be Abolished?"

IN MY OPINION THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IS:

YES NO

SIGNED _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ STATE _____

You can address any Representative c/o U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515; any Senator c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

issue, fill out the "ballot" and mail it to him. ➤

How Kids View Elections

'Campaign: When candidate tells what he stands for...'

'Election: When voters tell if they can stand him...'

By HAROLD DUNN

IN 19 YEARS teaching elementary school youngsters, I've encountered some unique ideas. Each year in St. Louis schools we study the U.S. election process and the resulting essays and exams have produced some hilarious comments—and some profound ones—all expressed in the delightfully original style of children. Here's what I mean:

"All the ways of nominees are smiling ways and glad to see you ways."

"Election days are good for democracy and having tests about."

"After the winning candidate is elected, he is taken and inoculated."

Psychologists tell us that half-learning a word incorrectly is often the first step to learning it right. Sometimes the kids invent entirely new words in expressing their thoughts:

"Some campaign tours are enough to make the average person drop from pure exhaustion."

"Issues are when they tell what they advocate and what they don't."

"So much speech making often causes their throwts to get orangitis."

"Candidates need to show more carefulness in their statements and their promises and their et set tras."

Another child of the 70's noted: "One good value of election campaigns is they let us know what problems we should be worrying about. And if we are not worrying, why we should be worrying about that."

"Thin skinned is good in apples but bad in candidates."

"Candidates are found in many sizes, shapes and meetings."

"Axually, elections are different from politics. Elections come and go while politics are with us all the time."

"Candidates are very useful in the study of elections."

"Elections will not be like they should be until they get like they were when we did not have any and appreciated all the good things elections could do."

"Political science has now advanced to the point where it is no longer understandable."

"The Republicans and Democrats are the mainest parties in the United States. Minority parties are called third parties. There are about 30 third parties in all."

"Another word for Republican is Gop. But I think I will just stick with the first word and learn it good."

"Dad does all his thinking about politics in his den. It is the room with the naughty pine walls."

The views expressed by these next students are their own and do not represent those of the author, the school, The American Legion or the world at large:

"Thanks to democracy, we now know that when a person votes he is somebody and not just a person because democracy teaches us that everybody equals everybody else if they are Americans."

"The difference between a king and a president is that a king is the son of his father but a president is not."

"If his father is a politician, the son is likely to get into politics while he is still green behind the ears."

"Politics have been with us forever and maybe even longer."

For sheer confusion, it's hard to top these:

"Citizens of the United States may be either Republican or Democrat and male or female upon reaching the age of voting, if of good moral character."

"It is better to be right than to be president. Most of the time. Unless you have a choice and more time to think about it."

"Will a woman ever be president? The odds are 999 out of 100."

"Our manner of electing a president will probably be changed completely in a few hundred years. Just wait and see."

"I was elected president of my third grade class last year only I did not know what to do about it."

"When the radio mentions a landslide, cross your fingers and hope it is talking about an election."

"The campaign is when the candidate tells what he stands for and the election is when the voters tell if they can stand him."

"Elections are made for exciting waitings."

Question: "What is the President's Inaugural Address?" Answer: "Somewhere on Pencilvania Avenue."

And then there are the men around a President: "The campaign manager must have a smart head up his sleeve."

END

GET OUT THE VOTE



ELECTION DAY

NOVEMBER 2

"We have a White House. We have a president for it. Thinking about who is to be it is one of our constant doings."

"Democrats and Republicans are the same only just the opposite."

"Of course it might be best if we had more than just two big political parties, but we must cut government spending somewhere."

"Our American Population is thickening so fast we will soon have as many voters as anything."

"Some of our presidents never did much else and are famous only because they were presidents."

Our Sad Mail Sack

arrives unduly late or is damaged. Yet USPS is moving most of our mail. In comparison with many foreign countries our performance would appear vastly superior, though none approach U. S. volume (*See chart*).

Perhaps the best way to comprehend the extreme cross-currents involving the postal issues is to study the statements of policy makers.

Rep. Paul Simon (D-IL): "A limited experiment should permit the private sector to deliver mail, too."

Sen. James L. Buckley (R-NY): "Repeal of the monopoly laws, known as the private express statutes would let the forces of competition provide this country with the kind of efficient mail service it needs and deserves . . ."

Sen. Gale W. McGee (D-WY): ". . . The postal monopoly is the very bedrock upon which our universal postal service is founded . . ."

The General Accounting Office: "The phasing out of 12,000 of the 18,000 smallest post offices could bring savings of \$100 million annually."

Senator McGee: "The closing out of these post offices would only amount to nine minutes of the whole annual payroll."

James Rademacher: "The woes of the Postal Service should be traced to inflated operating costs, but the expense for labor is not the root of our financial difficulties."

The General Accounting Office: "Cost-of-living increases in the past two years alone have amounted to \$987 million."

Postmaster Gen. Benjamin F. Bailer: "The Postal Service could be insolvent within a year, without massive new federal aid to stem rising debts now estimated at nearly \$3 billion . . ."

Rep. Edward J. Derwinski (R-IL): "Advocates of bigger postal subsidies, now and forever more, gloss over the fact it is the taxpayers who ultimately will be asked to shoulder the additional burden by sharply increasing their tax ante. There is only one available spigot for a federal subsidy—the U. S. Treasury."

James J. LaPenta, an official of the Mailhandlers Division of the Laborers International Union: "Abolish the bulk mail centers and return to manual handling of packages."

Edgar S. Brower, assistant postmaster general, Bulk Mail Processing Department: "Loose-in-the-mail packages, which include those which are severely damaged, amounts to

about 1.08 parcels out of a thousand."

Rep. Charles H. Wilson (D-CA), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Postal facilities, Mail and Labor Department: "I don't trust those (Brower's) figures."

After visiting Detroit's bulk mail center, Wilson pronounced damage to parcels a disgrace, relented a bit when Brower pointed out that the complex processing machinery was not fully phased in yet. Letter-sorting machines that cost \$165,000 can process 35,000 letters an hour, but many postmasters still find it necessary to post experienced human

sorters to keep the machines out of trouble. Thus, the men responsible for the Postal Service and its employes are caught in a strange kind of tragedy. They defend the indefensible. A bill before Congress calls for a postal subsidy of \$1 billion and a moratorium on postal rate increases until Feb. 15, 1977 and a moratorium on any service cuts or post office closings. If the subsidy is not voted, I was told, we will mail Christmas cards for 16¢ or more this year.

Either way, we pay.

—Maury Delman

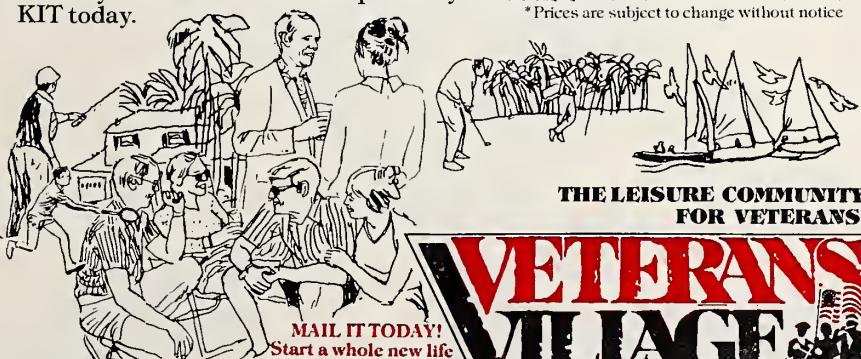
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Aid for Pennsylvania Victims

National Commander Offers Help in Wake of Mystery Disease

A special committee of medical men and prominent Legionnaires will be appointed to assemble all information on the mysterious disease that killed 27 Pennsylvania Legionnaires and hospitalized 150 others.

National Commander Harry G. Wiles made the announcement at the national convention in Seattle as reports indicated the disease had run its course.

"I am also asking the committee to give us recommendations on ways and means by which we can assist the next of kin of those who died or had to undergo lengthy and expensive hospitalization," Wiles said.

Pennsylvania Legionnaires attending the Seattle meeting spoke in low tones about good friends they had lost after their July convention in Philadelphia. The all-faith religious service at the convention offered special prayers for the victims.

Wiles said the Legion committee will work with public health experts to disseminate all information on the malady to help arm the Legion and general public with precautions.

Philadelphia experts confirmed in late August that no secondary cases were reported, indicating that the illness is definitely not contagious.

Experts have examined scores of varieties of bacteria, viruses, poisons and toxic substances, but Wiles said they have yet to pinpoint the cause.

Press reports have linked numerous other deaths to the Legion toll, but health authorities say proof is not conclusive.

Investigations are increasingly aimed at the possibility of nickel carbonyl poisoning. Tests at the University of Connecticut indicated an

unusually high nickel content in victims' tissues. Nickel carbonyl is a colorless liquid or vapor that is formed when carbon monoxide passes over metallic nickel at temperatures above 116 degrees Fahrenheit. The chemical is used in plastics and acrylics. It is handled in pressurized steel cylinders.

The national media quickly labeled the malady "the Legion disease," but the top medical experts in the United States could not explain why it fell

tionnaires to almost 10,000 who attended the convention, trying to pinpoint the source of the illness.

First warning of the disease to the federal Center for Disease Control in Atlanta was telephoned shortly after 8 a.m., Monday, Aug. 2, from the Veterans Administration Philadelphia Outpatient Clinic.

That alert was sounded by Dr. Sidney B. Franklin, an internist.

Robert H. Vogel, State Legion Department Service officer headquar-

A Tribute to Our Legion Dead

Editor's Note: Abe Ruben of Donora, PA, was one of the victims of the strange malady that struck Legionnaires at the Pennsylvania Department convention. Mr. and Mrs. William McLean, Sr., of Fairless Hills, PA, sent this tribute to Ruben to The American Legion Magazine. We share it with our readers as a tribute to all the Pennsylvania victims.

"Someone has said: 'He has achieved success who has lived well, who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who has left the world better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem or a rescued soul; who has never lacked any appreciation of the earth's beauty or failed to express it; who has always looked for the best in others and given the best he had; whose life was an inspiration; whose memory a benediction.'

"He was proud to be a Legionnaire and proud of his country.
"This is how we shall always remember our friend."

on Legionnaires. They have ruled out viral or bacterial causes.

On Sunday, Aug. 1, Pennsylvania Department Headquarters in Harrisburg received reports that a number of Legionnaires had been stricken ill, several persons were dead. The reports multiplied and Department Adjutant Edward T. Hoak alerted states and U.S. health authorities. The department's action undoubtedly saved many lives as victims turned to prompt professional treatment rather than home remedies. Hoak and the new department commander, Joseph Y. Adams, coordinated efforts to keep all Legionnaires informed and to guarantee cooperation with state and federal health authorities.

"My first concern," Hoak said, "was to avoid panic that could result from wild rumors and to advise through the public media that home remedies were not the solution if a person had symptoms of the illness."

The 911 American Legion posts in Pennsylvania circulated health ques-

tered at the VA Center in Philadelphia, went to the OPC at 8 a.m., complaining of high fever (104) and chest pains. Vogel first saw Nurse Mary "Molly" McLaughlin, who informed Dr. Franklin of the illness.

Vogel told the doctor that he had just learned the night before of four deaths and 26 cases of illness, and that his symptoms resembled those of the others. Dr. Franklin instituted much lab work and ordered a chest x-ray. He then telephoned Dr. Michael Craven in Atlanta.

Vogel contacted Commander Adams, who was in town to tour the VA Center with Vogel and S. W. Milodosian, the Center Director. Adams contacted Hoak who relayed all information to Adams. It was given to Dr. Franklin and Nurse McLaughlin, who telephoned it to Dr. Craven.

As they were talking with Dr. Craven, Vogel's chest x-ray came back and Dr. Franklin discovered that Vogel had pneumonia, but

(Continued on page 54)



Clarence (Larry) Seaman, 93, of Williamsport, PA, attended his 58th National Convention in Seattle

Where Patriots Played

BICENTENNIAL LANDMARK

Quiet beauty now greets Berkeley Springs visitors

A THREE-WEEK vacation with pay was not the norm in 18th century America. In fact, a vacation of any kind was a rarity in a harsh, still new land.

But there were exceptions.

Florida was then a Spanish possession far to the south and of little interest even to those who knew of its subtropical climate.

The Philadelphia Wagon Road that wound through the Scotch-Irish and

German communities of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley and the Blue Ridge, the Carolinas and Georgia was a tortuous path, hardly inviting to any vacationer. Cities like Winchester, New Market, Harrisonburg and Staunton in Virginia; Winston-Salem in the Carolina Piedmont and Charlotteburgh (now Charlotte) NC and Augusta, GA, eventually blossomed, but in the 1770's they were rugged outposts. The "Trail of the Lonesome Pine" still waited for novelist John Fox, Jr.

But there was an oasis called "The Medical Springs," a little spa nestled in the mountains of what is now northeast West Virginia. The springs created thermal baths that were alleged to have great curative powers.

Not unlike the spas of Europe, "The Medical Springs" soon gained a reputation for other attractions. As early as 1737 Virginia planters and Philadelphia businessmen described the area around the springs, with its inns and campgrounds, as the most sinful place in the new world. Although everyone professed to come seeking rejuvenation, many lingered for gambling, drinking, dancing and other diversions.

Young George Washington noted
(Continued on page 52)

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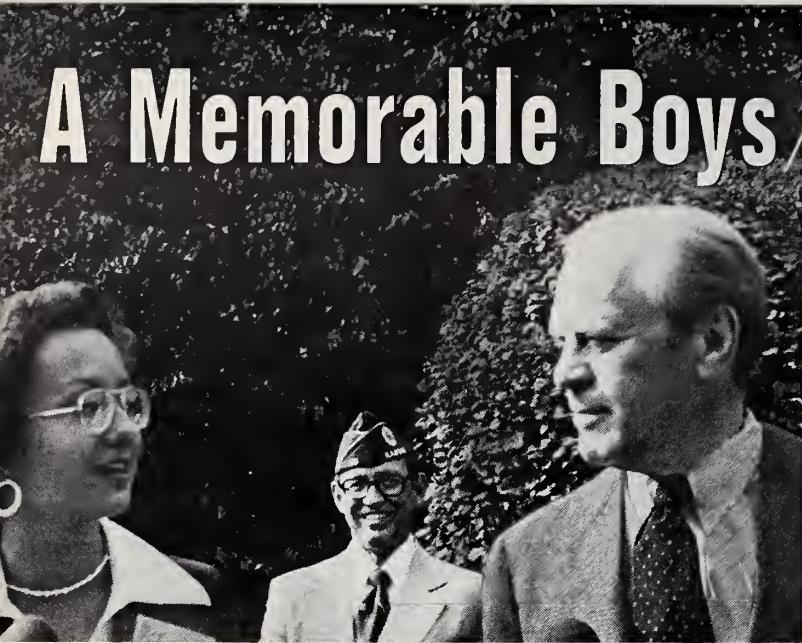
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A Memorable Boys Girls Nation



A most rewarding and valuable experience was the consensus of delegates following the outstanding Boys/Girls Nation conducted jointly for Bicentennial Year by The American Legion/Auxiliary at American University, Wash., D.C. Participating were 150 girls and 147 boys selected "senators" or "representatives" at state levels to serve as national delegates to the 18-day program which provided them with first-hand experience in Congressional processes and related activities.

Photographs on this page depict some of the many program activities in which the high school students participated.

Top Row: Left, Tina Jadach (MI), House Speaker for Boys/Girls Nation, presents honorary membership pin to President Gerald Ford during White House visit, while Legion National Commander Harry G. Wiles smiles in background. Right, Mrs. Ford receives her honorary pin from Boys/Girls Nation President Vincent Marazita (MI), as Auxiliary National President Mrs. Lotys Schanle and Tina Jadach watch

Second Row: Left, Valarie Parr (KY), junior counselor, shows startled interest. Right, Missouri delegates give Director Clarence Kelley plaque during visit to FBI Headquarters. Left to right, are Steve Buis, Rowley Monlina, Kelley and Erik Eike

Third Row: Left, delegate pays respects at President Kennedy's grave in Arlington Cemetery. Center, delegates cruise aboard Navy vessel during visit to Naval Academy, Annapolis. Right, crew member gives steering instructions to delegates Terri Bourke (ME), and Michelle Johnson (IA)

Bottom Row: Left, A. R. Thomas (AR), and Corky Bradshaw (AR), senior counselors, get "punished" during Colonial Williamsburg tour. They directed BGN chorus. Right, delegates watch ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery

Seattle a Legion Triumph



A check for \$1,028,691.15 is presented by American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary to Dr. Benjamin F. Byrd, American Cancer Society president. From left: Auxiliary President Lotys Schanel, National Commander Harry Wiles, Mrs.

Muriel Stember, widow of the late NY adjutant and honorary past national commander Maurice Stember, Past National Commander James Wagonseller and Dr. Byrd. Stember and Wagonseller launched the fund-raising drive

IT WAS A vigorous, resurgent American Legion that held its 58th national convention in air-conditioned Seattle, Aug. 20-26.

Candidates recognized it and Gov. Jimmy Carter and Sen. Robert Dole journeyed to the far Northwest for major, theme-setting campaign speeches. Hospitable Seattle and the state of Washington recognized it as they entertained the largest convention in their history, earned a "well-done" from more than 25,000 happy visitors and responded with a cheerful "come again."

And members of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary recognized it. Hard work had generated a gain of 21,515 members in the 1975-76 year, sending total Legion membership over 2,700,000—the highest membership since the late 1950's and a gain of 150 new posts, sending the post total over 16,000. The American Legion Auxiliary also reported major gains that brought its membership close to one million.

For out-going National Commander Harry Wiles of Kansas, the convention was a stirring valedictory to a year of accomplishment, capped by the presentation to the American Cancer Society of a Legion-Auxiliary check for \$1,028,691.15. The funds will be used for cancer research.

For William Rogers, the first Maine Legionnaire ever elected as national commander, it was a chal-

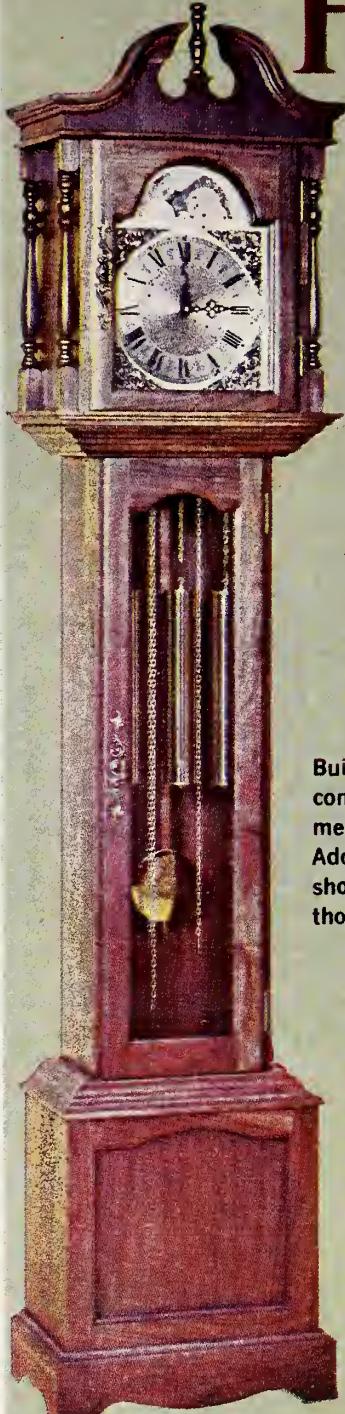
(Continued on page 41)



National Commander Wiles welcomes Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter (above) and Republican vice presidential candidate Sen. Robert Dole and Mrs. Dole. Sen. Dole belongs to Russell, KA, Post 99. Gov. Carter to Post 2 at Americus, GA

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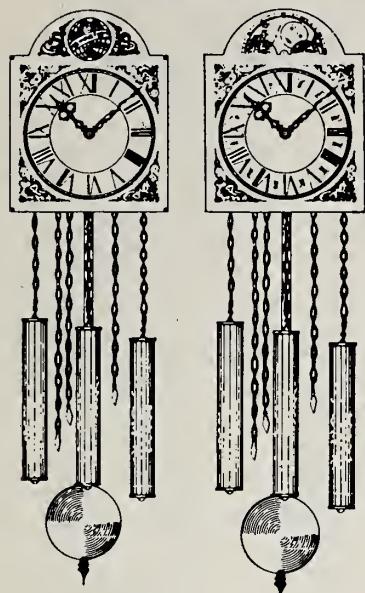
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1976-77 National Commander Is First Elected from Maine



WHEN BILL ROGERS was a freshman blocking back at Syracuse he used to scrimmage man-to-man against a veteran guard and team captain named Duffy Daugherty.

"I used to bounce off him like a . . . , well, just say I used to bounce off him," recalls Rogers.

Daugherty went on to become the head football coach at Michigan State University, a Rose Bowl winner and one of the great figures of college football.

Rogers, now 55, went on to become a Navy carrier pilot, a successful businessman and the new 1976-77 national commander of the American Legion.

"As much as I love football, I wouldn't trade," said Rogers in an interview. "As long as I can remember I wanted to be the first national commander from Maine."

He made it Aug. 26 at the national convention in Seattle.

The Rogers family has written its own story in Maine Legion history. Bill's father was a veteran of World War I, a county sheriff and a member of Post 153 in New Auburn. (His

mother was Maine's first woman liquor commissioner and clerk of the state House of Representatives.) Two brothers joined Bill in Post 153 at the end of World War II. One served in Europe, one in Alaska.

Old-timers in Auburn still like to recall the late 30's when Rogers was an all-state halfback at Edward Little High School, and a letterman in basketball and baseball.

After a year at New Hampton (NH) prep school, he went on to Syracuse and letters in football, basketball and boxing; a busy life in the Sigma Chi fraternity house, and lots of dates including quite a few with an Auburn girl named Constance Bearce with whom he'd attended grade school, high school and even dancing school.

"All I ever got out of that dancing school was a date," Rogers laughs, "and it wasn't with Connie."

Eventually there was a date with World War II.

Rogers volunteered in the Navy flight program and was assigned to a V-5 class at the Univ. of North

(Continued on page 36)

Counter-Clockwise: A young Bill Rogers strikes a Lord Fauntleroy pose the older Rogers would rather forget; Mrs. Rogers, Bill and their youngest grandchild; Bill's class at Corpus Christi, TX, Naval Air Station; Lt. Rogers poses with crewmate on anti-sub patrol plane; Rogers in his all-state halfback days





WILLIAM J. ROGERS
NATIONAL COMMANDER
THE AMERICAN LEGION, 1976-1977

Convention Quotes

Excerpts from Seattle Speeches

Highlights from some of the speeches and comments heard at the national convention in Seattle:

Seattle Times: "To contentions that younger ex-servicemen are not attracted to the patriotic trappings of an American Legion post as their fathers and grandfathers were, Legion officials note that more than 600,000 Vietnam veterans are Legionnaires today. Judging by the turnout and spirit of the Seattle convention, it appears that veterans groups are a long way from going out of style . . ."

Rear Adm. Jeffrey C. Metzel, commander of the Bangor, WA, Trident submarine base: The Trident submarines will counter growing Soviet anti-submarine capability because "we will be using broader ocean areas to hide our subs. There will be no requirement for overseas bases with the Trident."

Hadlai Hull, assistant secretary of the Army: Noting the Soviets have six times as much artillery and four times as many tanks as the U.S., "the Army's total inventory is 51 per cent of what we think we need. By the end of 1976 we should have 64 per cent, still far below our needs . . . Congress has cut back money for recruitment and we have started to slip a little (in meeting manpower goals.)"

Adm. James L. Holloway III, chief of naval operations: "In the past 10 years the Soviets have delivered to their fleet a total of 833 naval vessels and (supply) ships . . . The U.S. Navy has delivered a total of 265 news ships . . ."

Tina Judach, Royal Oak, MI, Girls Nation representative: "We have the

right to hold our own future in our hands."

Rep. Ray Roberts (D-TX): "When a nation is not at war the public quickly forgets the sacrifices of its armed forces and interest in veterans and defense expenditures rapidly diminishes . . ."

"The younger veteran, critics say, has no voice and no representation in Washington from the American Legion. You and I know that is a lot of hogwash . . ."

Gen. Russell E. Dougherty, commander of the Strategic Air Command: "I am amazed by the heterogeneous grouping of people and organizations that have spoken out so vehemently against the B-1 bomber—I am appalled by the lack of serious, responsible thought that permeates most, if not all, of their argument . . ."

"We can hope for peace, we can legislate against aggression . . . but we must recognize these are the aspirations of righteous people . . ."

Past National Commander Harry Colmery, KA (1936-37): "We need to be worried . . . too many people don't care for the rights of others . . . we seem to have lost the necessary responsibility of citizenship . . . government can't rise any higher than the understanding of its citizens."

Bernard Goldberg, chairman and president, American Distilling Co.: "Do Legion positions today concur or conflict with American public opinion as shown in polls like those made by the Roper Opinion Research Organization?

"The average American is more suspicious of the Russian today than he was a year ago . . .

(Continued on page 48)



Adm. James Holloway, chief of naval operations, addresses Legionnaires



Ambassador James Shen of Republic of China, right, meets an old friend, Soleng Tom of Arizona



Bernard Goldberg, chairman and president of American Distilling Co., poses with National Adjutant William F. Hauck



Strategic Air Command Commander Gen. Russell E. Dougherty is congratulated by Roscoe Morse, CA (left), and Noah Smalley, FL, after vigorous defense of B-1 bomber



Actor Pat O'Brien, recipient of Legion's Distinguished Service Award, introduces his wife to convention. O'Brien also entertained at the Commander's banquet

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The Society of Founders of The American Legion was represented at Seattle by (left to right): Front—Harry L. Foster, San Diego; John J. Wicker Jr., Richmond, VA; Jerome F. Duggan, St. Louis. Back—Byron E. Waggoner, Hammond, IN; Hamilton Fish, New York; Edward J. Radley, Peoria; Charles H. Titus, St. Petersburg, FL, and Charles J. Maisel, Odessa, TE. The Founders attended meetings in Paris and St. Louis in 1919 to organize The American Legion



Foreign veterans' greetings were brought to Seattle by (clockwise from upper left) T. Y. Chao of Republic of China; Frank Farley, Canada; Colin Keon-Cohen, Australia; Vice Adm. Maeng Kee Lee, Korea



Dr. Peter Beach, left, outlines HEW policies to convention audience; Chairman Ray Roberts of House Veterans Affairs committee reports on legislative prospects of Legion programs



Patriotic and Memorial Services at Seattle were conducted by (left to right) past National Chaplains Rev. Jerome B. Fortenberry, MO (1973-74), Rev. Harvey Goodling, OR (1974-75), Fr. Paul J. Schwaab, NE (1971-72), Rabbi David Lefkowitz, LA (1950-51), Rev. Claude E. Smithmier, GA (1975-76), Rev. L. P. Fitzpatrick, IA (1972-73) and incoming National Chaplain Fr. James C. Tuxbury, ND

75,000 Cheer Marchers

'No Parade' City Changes Its Mind

"Don't rain on my parade," the song says.

And it didn't.

The day was overcast and rain threatened, but that didn't deter an estimated 5,000 marchers and some 75,000 spectators who stood four and five deep for hours to see the Legion's 58th Annual Convention Parade.

They came with lightweight chairs and umbrellas, heavy sweaters and coats, and brought the entire family. Except for one major "Sea Fair" parade each year, Seattle residents claim that their city is not really parade-oriented. It was therefore an outstanding tribute to the Legion that so many turned out for its big show. And a big show it was.

Floats, heavy military vehicles, a procession of old cars, bands (some from the Drum & Bugle Corps competition, others from area military units) were interspersed among the marchers, playing step-along music to delight everyone.

The Black Watch Junior Color Guard, pride of Post 78 in Auburn, WA, is the 1976 winner of the American Legion National Championship Junior Drum and Bugle Corps competition.

Performing before 5,000 cheering home state partisans, the boys and



Cdr. Wiles presents prizes to members of championship Auburn, WA, corps

girls, aged 14 to 21, out-marched and out-played competitors who were drawn mostly from western states.

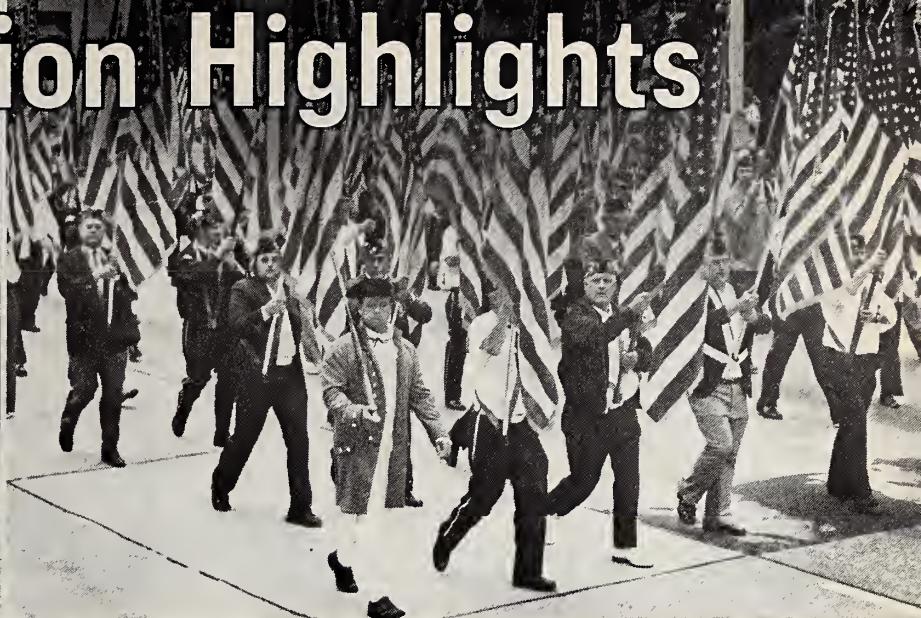
The annual Senior Drum and Bugle Corps competition was not held in Seattle this year.

The other competitors and their order of finish and sponsors were: Salina Silver Sabres, Salina, KA Post 62; Blue Knights, Denver, CO, Post 193; Titans, Bremerton, WA, Post 68; Imperial Dragons, Phoenix, AR, Post 50; Cascades, Seattle, WA, Post 227; Conquistadors, Daly City, CA, Post 410; 3rd Regiment, Milwaukie, OR, Post 180; Highland Regiment, Auburn, WA, Post 78; and Guardsmen, Bremerton, WA, Post 68.

Other awards presented in the competition went to:

Black Watch—High Drum Score; Imperial Dragons—High Bugle Score; Cascades—National Junior Color Guard Championship; Jersey Chevrons Post 40, Ridgfield Park, NJ—National Senior Color Guard Championship; LaQuenian, Post 639, Los Angeles, CA—Junior Drill Team Championship, and Ding-A-Ling, Unit 180, Milwaukie, OR—Senior Drill Team Championship. The Chorus, Singing Legionnaires, Post 15, Sioux Falls, SD, successfully defended its national title.

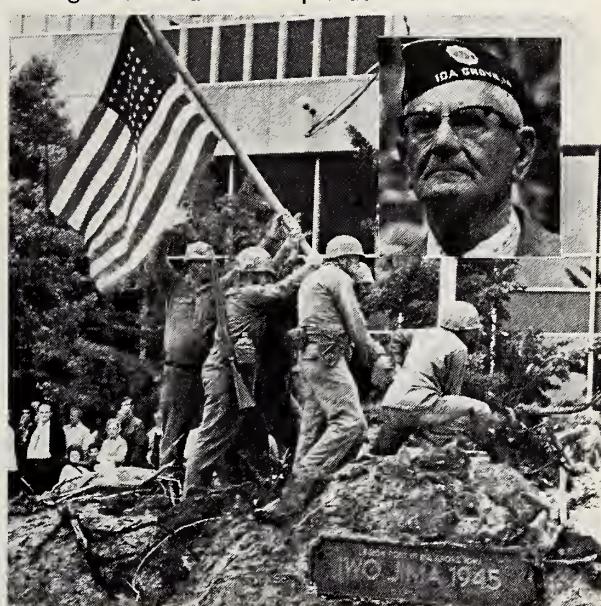
Convention Highlights



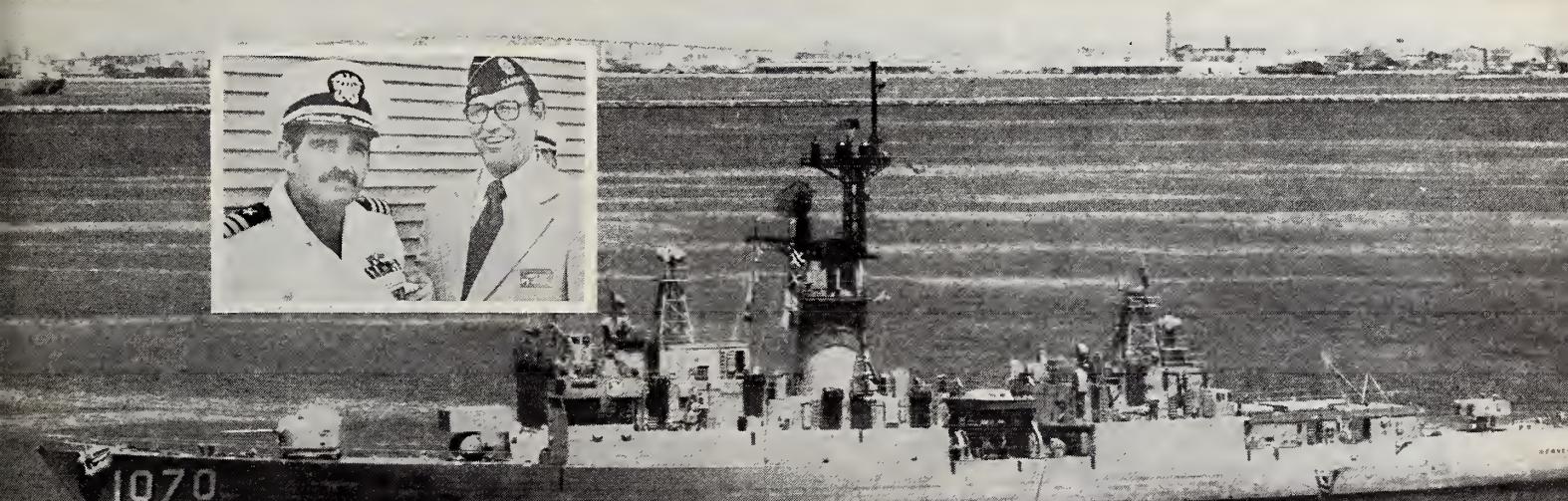
Commander Wiles waves to cheering Legionnaires; Washington flag bearers lead Seattle parade



Auxiliary President Lotys Schanle and Auxiliary Secretary Doris Anderson place wreaths at representation of the Tomb of the Unknowns during convention memorial service that took special note of Philadelphia disease victims



Ida Grove, IA, Post 61 offers Iwo Jima float manned by veterans of five wars. Front to back: Roger Deppen, Wayne Woebke, George Setchell (World War I, 83, inset), Lester Freese, Bill Kanne, Bob Friedrichsen



Outgoing National Commander Wiles chats with Comdr. Joseph D'Amico, skipper of USS Downes, during Seattle visit

Convention Resolutions

AMERICANISM COMMITTEE:

Daniel J. O'Connor, Chmn, NY

265. Endorses continued support for FBI; would extend full support to Constitutional Oath Support Act; supports Rep. Ashbrook in his goal to utilize facilities of former House Internal Security Committee to assist Judiciary Committee with its new Internal Security responsibilities.

340. Supports restoration of May 30 as Memorial Day.

203. Opposes any change in our National Anthem.

303. Deplores certain specific actions of The American Civil Liberties Union.

303. Deplores invitations extended by Student Senate of Stanford Univ. to Angela Davis and Ernest Mandel and expresses dismay via appropriate Legion officials.

15. Calls on U.S. Senate to support measures for adequate funding for Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

3. Opposes enactment of "A Declaration of INTERdependence" by U.S. and opposes introduction of same into school system as part of 13-year Bicentennial program.

112. Urges legislation prohibiting employment of illegal aliens, as well as penalties for those who do employ them, and supports more funding of U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization for this purpose.

173. Would have Legion reaffirm its confidence in the FBI and the Central Intelligence Agency and would support forwarding copy of any such resolution to those whose good opinion would benefit these agencies.

204. Reaffirms support for Constitutional amendment to permit voluntary prayer in public buildings.

248. Recommends highest Legion award or commendation for baseball's Rick Monday.

264. Supports reestablishment of House Committee on Internal Security.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

Emmett G. Lenihan, Chmn, WA

467. Urges the complete restoration of the military superiority of the United States.

1. Calls on Congress to appropriate adequate funds to carry out space programs.

101. Urges Congress and the Administration to fully support specific Air Force programs.

313. Recognizes value of and need for comprehensive post-graduate education program within the Defense Department to provide management and technical personnel.

323. Calls for assurance that ground forces will have the best possible close air support.

324. Urges Congress and the Administration to continue their support for the procurement of F-15 aircraft.

325. Urges Congress and the Administration to continue their support for the procurement of F-16 aircraft.

327. Urges Congress and the Administration to provide a sufficient number of Air Warning and Control systems to meet U.S. requirements.

328. Urges actions designed to insure that sufficient airlift and refueling capability will be available in future years.

329. Supports TRIAD concept and funding of B-1 bomber program.

287. Reaffirms 1975 National Convention Resolution 430 recognizing the vital role of the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency in war and peacetime.

366. Urges development of a civil defense preparedness program for protection against a nuclear war.

455. Requests amendment of the Natural Disaster Relief Act of 1974.

471. Supports Defense Civil Preparedness Agency in continuing its program to protect our people in cases of nuclear attack.

214. Supports a strong United States merchant marine.

232. Supports legislation authorizing aid in developing, constructing and operating privately-owned nuclear merchant ships.

474. Supports establishment and maintenance of a free international market for ocean marine insurance.

475. Urges action to increase participation in international trade by U.S. flag ships.

434. Urges all Members of The American Legion to publicize Legion's stand on draft evaders, deserters and blanket amnesty.

64. Opposes unionization of Armed Forces.

228. Proposes modernization and strengthening the U.S. Army, the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve.

34. Urges a stable end strength of Army.

35. Supports Total Force Policy.

192. Opposes reduction in the drill periods of the National Guard.

316. Reaffirms support for Reserve Forces.

367. Reaffirms support of ROTC and Junior ROTC programs.

427. Continues support of the Selective Service System.

158. Opposes legislation to discontinue cost-of-living allowance for military retirees.

473. Opposes any reduction in appropriated fund support for military commissaries.

472. Supports provision of malpractice insurance for physicians in the Defense Dept.

104. Urges action to modernize Navy.

215. Supports continued Trident Weapon System program.

216. Supports restoration of manning levels of the Naval Reserve.

372. Calls for the immediate establishment of a ten-year naval shipbuilding program.

445. Supports Project Seafarer.



Ex-Yankee Hall of Famer Vernon "Lefty" Gomez, right, winner of Past Commanders' "Good Guy" award, with C. D. DeLoach (DC), left, and E. Roy Stone (SC).

the Organization of American States to warn of continuing Communist threats and activities in the American Hemisphere.

417. Opposes any action to establish cooperative policies with Cuban government until that government is prepared to maintain friendly relations with the United States.

245. Urges statehood for Puerto Rico.

392. Urges retention of Byrd Amendment allowing the purchase of chrome from Rhodesia.

416. Urges United States to oppose the Soviet Union's intensive colonization efforts in Africa.

321. Commends the Israeli government for its Uganda operation.

334. Supports new basis of cooperation and friendship with the oil producing nations in the Middle East.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION:

William F. Lenker, Chmn, SD

49. Supports mustering-out pay for Vietnam Veterans.

111. Supports Veterans Administration as sole government department in Executive Branch responsible for veterans affairs.

139. Sets forth Legion's position on national health insurance.

163. Supports legislation to reopen Guerrilla Recognition Program of Philippines by U.S. Defense Dept.

195. Opposes subjecting veterans benefits and services to periodic review and re-authorization.

253. Would urge Bureau of Census to consult with VA on questions regarding veterans for 1980 census.

377. Supports legislation to increase per diem paid to State Veterans' Homes.

476. Opposes any Congregational resolutions that would reassign any Veterans Affairs Committees functions to another Committee.

81. Supports legislation for furnishing memorial markers for graves in private cemeteries for honorable discharged servicemen, where remains are not recoverable.

255. Establishes Legion policy on improving

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 38)



Conventioners crowd around Legion emblem sales display

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Dr. Robert P. Foster, Chmn, MO

122. Supports continuation of Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe.

227. Urges legislation to strengthen safeguarding of classified information and to protect nation's intelligence agents.

225. Deplores the extant situation of the United Nations.

360. Denounces attempts to barter for MIA information.

347. Adopts prayer dedicated to securing the return and accounting for MIA's.

419. Reaffirms continuing security relationship with the Republic of Korea.

469. Opposes any proposals for the unilateral withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Republic of Korea and for termination of the UN command in the ROK.

89. Sets guidelines for SALT talks.

95. Expresses appreciation for NATO support by Greece and Turkey and urges retention of U.S. and NATO bases in two countries.

96. Urges NATO allies to assume their agreed share of troop requirements and financial burdens.

90. Opposes new treaties or executive agreements with Panama that would reduce U.S. control over the U.S.-owned Canal and Canal Zone.

470. Urges Congressional investigation of alleged Communist influence in Panama.

125. Urges State Department to initiate re-establishment of a security committee in



Rehab Director Ed Golembieski, VA Medical Director Dr. John Chase and Al Lanker, SD, discuss veterans' care



Youth winners include: Baseball—David D. Edler, Yakima, WA; Boy Scout—Mark Aaron Wright, Bartelsville, OK, and Oratorical—Robert H. Maus, Honolulu

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PRIME LIFE 50 PLUS is underwritten by Colonial Penn Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, specialists in serving the specific needs of America's older population. This protection is recommended to their members by two of America's highly respected national nonprofit organizations of the mature: the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

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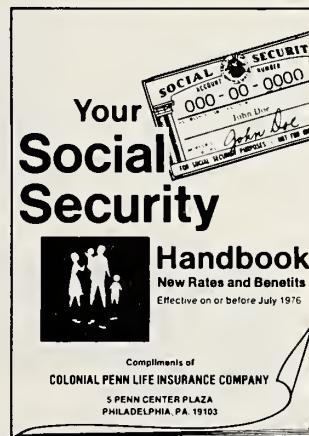
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*Service Mark J3AWA

National Commander

Carolina at Chapel Hill. It was a famous class. One fellow cadet was baseball Hall of Famer Ted Williams. (Williams and Rogers were reunited for the first time in almost 35 years last month at the American Legion Baseball World Series in Manchester, NH.)

The Rogers-Williams class at Chapel Hill was strictly "big league." Johnny Pesky, Boston Red Sox shortstop, was Bill's roommate. Pitchers Johnny Sain of the old Boston Braves and Joe Coleman of the old Philadelphia Athletics were physical training instructors. The class also included Joe Kusek, a catcher with the A's; Buddy Hassett, New York Yankees' first baseman, and Harry Craft, centerfielder for the Cincinnati Reds.

"We could have won the World Series," says Rogers.

The new national commander earned his Navy commission, his gold pilot's wings and Connie Bearce as a wife all on the same June day in 1944 at the Corpus Christi, TX, Naval Air Station. After the ceremonies Connie went back to Maine and a job in a Lewiston bank. Bill



Rogers poses after election with new national vice commanders: Robert B. Grauberger, Haxtun, CO; Thomas B. Coll, Adelphi, MD (DC Dept.); Lloyd J. Berken, Appleton, WI; Wilbur Walker, Richmond, VA, and Frank J. Kelly, Savannah, GA

went off to the South Pacific and two years of "carioca landings" (left wheel . . . right wheel . . . tail wheel . . .) in F6F Hellcats, F7F Tiger Cats and F8 Bearcats aboard the carriers *Bon Homme Richard* and *Shamrock Bay*. Bill also flew Lockheed Venturas on anti-submarine patrol.

When he was mustered out of the Navy as a lieutenant senior grade in 1946, Rogers had flown more than 30 combat missions. His decorations include the Air Medal and a Presidential Unit Citation.

From 1946 to 1954 Rogers was a field representative for the Maine Employment Security Commission. Then came three years as an assis-

tant superintendent of Bonafide Mills. In 1957 he became associated with the United States Brewers Association, Inc., a Washington, DC, trade association that represents about 90 percent of American beer production. He has been its vice president for government operations since 1973.

Postwar years also brought involvement in civic activities.

Inside the American Legion, Rogers served as post service officer, adjutant, vice commander and commander. He was Maine's Second District commander, department commander, department chairman of the Rehabilitation and Service Committee and a member of the Maine

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Child Welfare and Executive committees. On the national level he has been Maine's national executive committeeman, chairman of the National Distinguished Guest Committee, a member of the liaison committee to the National Public Relations Commission and a 1965-66 national vice commander.

Outside the Legion, Rogers has served as a member of the Maine Chamber of Commerce, a director of the National Council of the USO, a director of the Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children and Adults, district director of the Boy Scouts of America, assistant state chairman of the Cancer Society, director of the Auburn Growth Corporation and a member of the Governor's Committee to keep Maine Scenic.

In addition to the American Legion, Bill Rogers belongs to the Elks, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Auburn Exchange Club, Syracuse University Varsity Club and the Webhanet, ME, Country Club.

Although he has traveled 150,000 miles a year for the past seven years in his job with the Brewers Association, Bill and Connie insist that "home" is Kennebunk, ME. Their daughter, Mrs. Bonnie Banks, lives in Portland, ME, and manages the commander's three grandchildren. Son David of New Rochelle, NY, manages professional athletes. Son Bill Junior was graduated this year from Siena, NY, College and is doing graduate work at the Univ. of Maine. Son Peter, 13, according to his dad, is "a helluva hockey player."

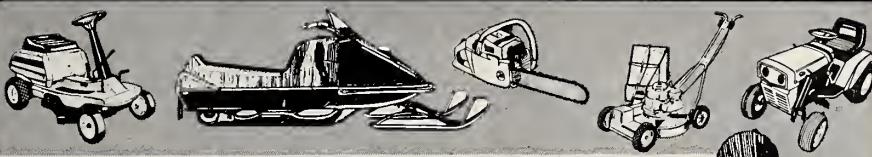
"The Legion is going to love Bill," confides Connie. "He's the best. He was even the best in dancing school. He's certainly the best husband in the world. He helps around the house . . . when he's home . . . he loves to cook breakfast and bake stuffed lobster. The only thing he doesn't do is the dishes. . . . But I suppose a girl can't have everything."

END



Young and old on parade in Seattle: a Tacoma flag-bearer and Howard Owen of Monahan Post 64, Sioux City, IA

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Convention Resolutions

National Cemetery System and veterans death and burial benefits.

108. Supports legislation to amend law to extend time of community nursing home care at VA expense to nine months.

166. Favors legislation to extend grants-in-aid program to Veterans Memorial Hospital in Philippines beyond June 30, 1978.

39. Seeks legislation for improving death and disability pension program for Veterans and dependents of WWI, II, Korea and Vietnam.

41. Favors legislation to prevent termination of payments to hospitalized incompetent veterans unless estate exceeds \$3,000.

42. Favors legislation which would permit Administrator of Veterans Affairs to pay cost of transporting eligible veterans remains to place of burial.

54. Favors legislation that would increase veteran aid and attendance payment.

109. Would permit Administrator of Veterans Affairs to adjust certain monthly payments in response to cost-of-living index.

134. Opposes any VA schedule for rating disabilities not commensurate with those in civil occupations.

138. Would remove restriction against receipt of Armed Forces retirement pay, due to length of service, concurrently with VA compensation.

373. Favors dependency and indemnity compensation monthly rates in accordance with advances in cost-of-living index.

106. Opposes extending ten-year time limit for completing education or training.

107. Favors legislation to increase by 15 percent monthly payments for vocational rehabilitation, education and training and special assistance to eligible veterans.

453. Opposes provision restricting use of eligibility beyond 36 months to undergraduate study.

20. Urges Veterans Administration to inform National Service Life Insurance policyholders of waiver of premium payments due to total disability.

52. Favors legislation to provide a special Government Life Insurance program for Vietnam Era veterans.

137. Opposes elimination of characterization of military discharges or lowering of requirements for Honorable Discharge.

ECONOMICS COMMITTEE

Al Keller, Jr., Chmn, IL

58. Supports an effective Veterans Employment Service and the State Employment Services for veterans.

76. Urges priority services and preferential treatment for veterans and disabled veterans be built into the capabilities of their computer-assisted job-matching system at the Labor Department.

77. Advises Congress of specialized employment needs of disabled and older veterans.

84. Urges Congress to establish a full assistant secretary of Labor for Veterans' employment.

85. Supports legislation to amend the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.



Auxiliary President Lotys Schanel and Commander Wiles join show-stealing Boys/Girls Nation Chorus in song. Chorus was formed and trained in only 18 days

86. Urges support for the American Legion "Jobs For Veterans" program.

183. Urges provision of adequate and realistic travel funds for the Veterans Employment Service.

186. Opposes attempts to weaken or reduce veterans rights and benefits in federal employment.

187. Seeks legislation to reduce the numbers of categories of veterans to be used in administering laws applicable to veterans in the Public Employment Service.

188. Urges the President to issue an executive order to insure the inclusion of veterans preference requirements in all contracts issued to state and local governments.

478. Supports legislation to amend the Veterans Preference Act.

479. Seeks legislation to redefine "eligible veteran" for purposes of public employment preferential service.

480. Opposes legislation prohibiting employers from requesting information on veterans service records.

45. Supports the federal energy conservation program.

181. Urges that the American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program be exempted from all provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

294. Supports the United States Savings Bond program.

481. Opposes any transfer of the G.I. home loan program from Veterans Administration.

463. Urges government support of legislation that would assist families facing catastrophic illness of a child, and suggests expansion of Federal and State Crippled Children's Services Program for this purpose.

464. Supports vaccine program to combat disease, urges Post support and sufficient public funding for this purpose.

465. Supports government funding for school nutrition programs.

466. Endorses comprehensive health care for children and youth.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS:

John M. Carey, Chmn, MI

483. Expresses appreciation to American Legion Dept. of Washington and all others who formed nucleus for providing Legion with a successful, enjoyable convention.

343. Commend author of "America: My Homeland" and note that song has been adopted by Dept. of New York as an official Bicentennial song.

384. Lend full support to the National Yeoman F Organization's request for a commemorative stamp.

306. Commend Nat'l Commander Harry G. Wiles and Legion Magazine Editor Raymond J. McHugh for challenge they have offered to the internal menace of communism through Legion's magazine.

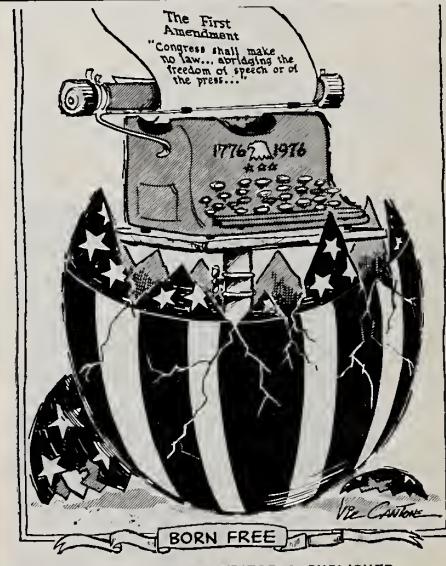
145. Prepare American Legion Membership Roster with double spacing to permit correction and updating.

AMENDMENTS:

Francis L. Giordano, Chmn, NY

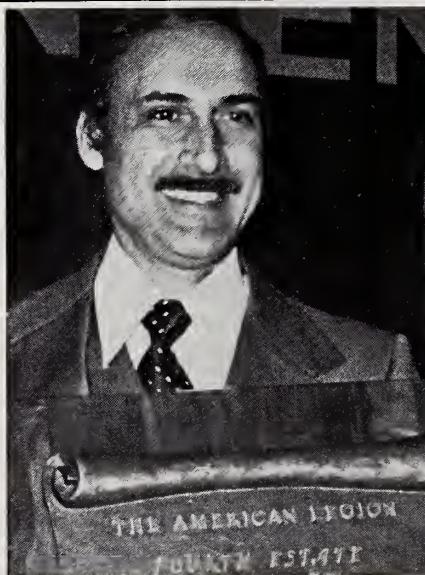
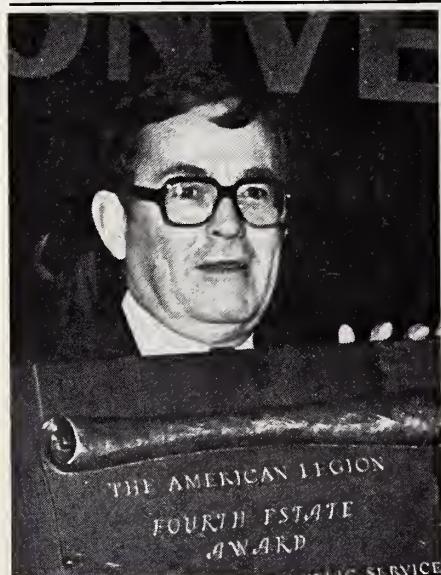
46. Seeks to amend Legion Constitution to change Office of National Chaplain from an elective to an appointive office.

142. Voted to amend National Constitution to permit a holder of an elective or appointive remunerative office in Legion to hold a remunerative elective public office.



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Legion Fourth Estate Awards this year went to: Thomas P. Chrisman, left, president of Bicentennial Radio Network, Hampton, VA, and Vic Cantone, syndicated editorial cartoonist, for his drawings depicting the basic tenets of American liberty. A typical Cantone editorial cartoon from Editor & Publisher Magazine is shown at the right. The award winners are selected by the National Public Relations Commission



Fourth Estate

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Auxiliary Elects Idaho Woman as President

Capping a year of record accomplishments that brought the American Legion Auxiliary to the threshold of one million members, President Lotys Schanel (RI) stepped down as national president at the Auxiliary's 56th annual convention in Seattle. Mrs. Norma Brown, of Filer, ID, was elected the new president. Mrs. Viola Moltzen of New Salem, ND, was elected national vice president.

Mrs. Brown has been a member of Filer Unit 47 since 1951 and was department president in 1961-62. She chaired five national Auxiliary committees before being elected national vice president last year.

Mrs. Moltzen served as chairman of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee.

Mrs. Schanel's year saw the Auxiliary participate equally in the American Legion cancer drive that raised more than a million dollars. The Auxiliary and the Legion also joined in the Bicentennial Boys/Girls Nation and in the Freedom Bell program. The outgoing president also was honored at the convention with a Bicentennial award from the Na-



Mrs. Norma Brown



Mrs. Viola Moltzen

tional Foundation March of Dimes.

As she surrendered her gavel, Auxiliary membership was up 11,766 to a national total of 956,293. The Auxiliary also gained 68 new units for a total of 12,591.

The 1976 winners of the Auxiliary's "Golden Mike" awards for outstanding local radio, television and press coverage went to "Through the Looking Glass" (KFAC-AM, Los Angeles, Leonora Schildkraut, producer); "Young People's Specials" (WLWT-TV, Cincinnati, Tom Robertson, producer); The New Jersey

Herald, Newton, NJ (Best editorial by Fran Roberts); The Evening and Sunday Bulletin, Philadelphia (Best local feature articles in observance of the Bicentennial, James Smart, editor, and Arthur Griffiths, art director).

Featured speakers at the Auxiliary convention were former CIA director Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters; Maj. Gen. Jeanne M. Holm (USAF, Ret.) who is now special assistant to the President for women, and Veterans Affairs Administrator Richard Roudebush.

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Charles E. Gannon, MD (left), new commander of the Sons of the American Legion receives congratulations from Grant Jamieson, MI, outgoing commander.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

Seattle a Legion Triumph

lenger to carry the organization to new heights before the 1977 convention next August in Denver. Mrs. Norma Brown of Idaho was elected president of the Auxiliary, succeeding Mrs. Lotys Schanel of Rhode Island.

In his acceptance speech, Rogers called for renewed emphasis on the American Legion's local community relations programs, "the things we do best." Noting convention concern with world trends, Rogers also announced that he will name a committee of distinguished Americans to examine the U.S. role in the United Nations.

For delegates it was a reaffirmation of American Legion dedication to the basics of American life. The mandates they voted took on special significance in an election year.

The two candidates for national office drew a sharp battle line for the political campaigns on the question of amnesty or pardons for draft evaders.

Carter provoked an uproar of "no, no, no" from the convention floor when he declared:

"I do not favor blanket amnesty, but for those who violated Selective Service laws, I intend to grant a blanket pardon."

The following day, Dole, the Republican Vice Presidential nominee, seized on the statement and said:

"... President Ford's position on this issue is... no blanket pardon, no blanket amnesty, no blanket clemency."

While concerned with veterans, domestic and economic issues, and national defense, the convention's emphasis was on foreign relations. Resolutions were adopted that:

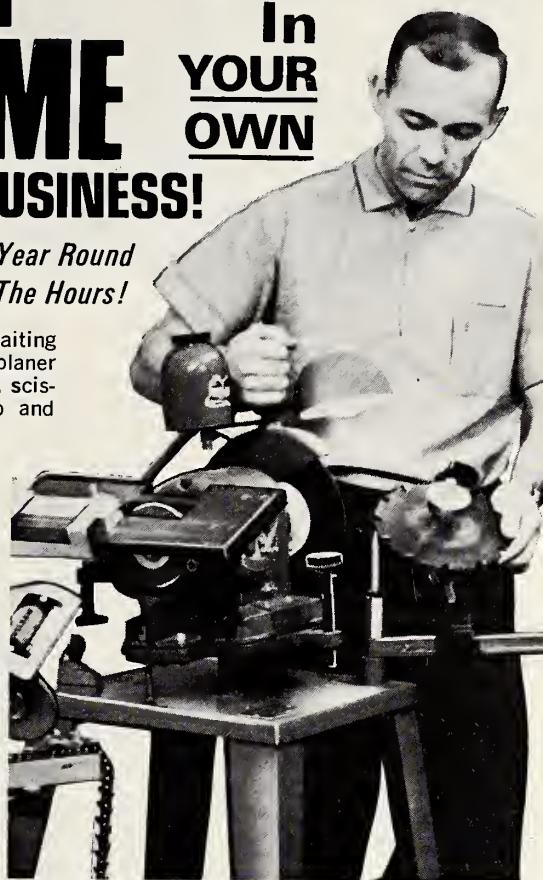
1. Called for an investigation to
(Continued on page 44)

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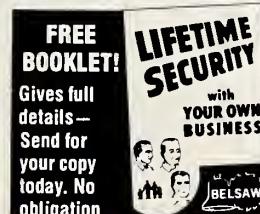
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Earl Litton, 83, Is
Selected as October
Legionnaire of Month



At 83, Earl Litton is still enthusiastic over his job as club manager for the Allen Jewett Post 47, Fairfield, IA, a position he has held since 1945. Before that, he served as the Post's commander, adjutant and service officer.

For his many years of service to the Legion and to hundreds of individuals, Litton is honored as October's Legionnaire of the Month. Earlier this year, he was presented with a plaque from Post 47 commanding him for his years of devotion to others.

Born Jan. 5, 1893, Litton took his first permanent job with the British American Lumber Co. in New Orleans. When the World War I conflict broke out in 1914, the firm moved its operations to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

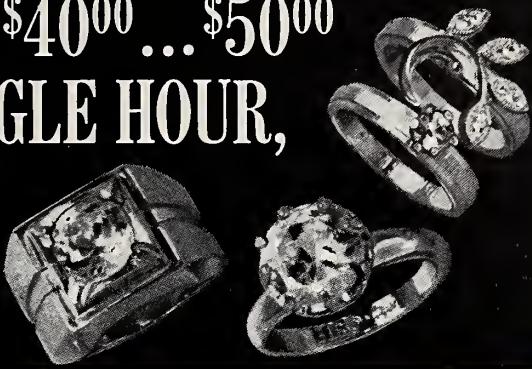
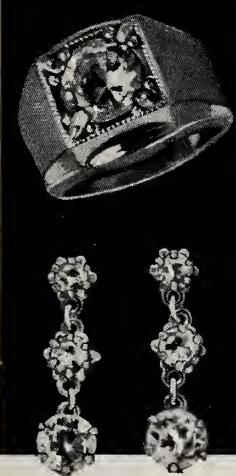
Litton transferred to Vancouver with his job and when Canada joined other allies in fighting Germany, he enlisted in the Canadian Army and soon was in the thick of combat in Europe. He was the first American soldier from Jefferson County, IA, to see action there.

In 1917, with the agreement of both governments, Litton transferred to the U.S. Forces fighting in Europe. He was discharged in 1919 as a sergeant in the U.S. Army.

After the war, Litton returned to Fairfield and took a job with a machinery firm using the first aid skills he had learned fighting in Europe. A widower, he was recently released from a care center after recuperating from an illness. He returned to his home of many years, the Fairfield Hotel, and spends much time at the Legion Post.



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The hottest thing in today's Billion Dollar Jewelry Industry is the *simulated diamond* . . . and the hottest of them all is the Merlite Dia-Sim. More and more people who would love to own real diamonds — but who refuse to pay sky-high diamond prices — are buying Dia-Sims instead!

COMPARISON CHART

	Natural Diamond	DIA-SIM by Merlite
Hardness (MOHS Scale)	10	8
Specific Gravity	3.52	3.60
Crystal System	Cubic	Cubic
Refractive Index	2.417	1.718
Mode of Refraction	Single	Single
No. of Facets	58	58
Flawlessness	Infrequent	Always
Typical Price (1 ct stone)	\$1,500	\$21

As the Comparison Chart above shows, the man-made Dia-Sim approaches the natural diamond in many important respects . . . *except price*. A 1-carat diamond can cost anywhere from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00 or more, depending upon color and quality. *But a pure-white, absolutely flawless 1-carat Dia-Sim retails for just \$6.00!* And since the two stones are so alike that only a jeweler can tell them apart for sure, why should ANYBODY buy a diamond? (Fact is, even very wealthy people are turning to simulations, to avoid soaring insurance costs and the risk of thievery.)

As you perhaps know, there are a number of diamond simulations available today. But the Merlite Dia-Sim, we feel, offers a unique combination of durability, beauty, and economy. Here's why:

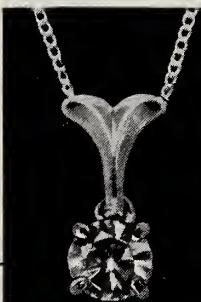
THE DIA-SIM AND THE DIAMOND COMPARED

First, durability. A natural diamond, with a Hardness of 10, is the hardest of all known substances; that's why it will scratch glass and even tool steel. *The Dia-Sim, with a Hardness of 8, will also scratch glass and tool steel.* This means that the Dia-Sim will NOT itself be scratched by the tiny quartz particles present in everyday dirt and grime. Some other diamond simulations display a Hardness of only 5 or 6, so that rapidly become dull and dead-looking because of minute scratches from household dust and even kitchen scouring powder. *A Dia-Sim, like a diamond, will retain its bright luster for a lifetime.*

The pure, fiery brilliance of a diamond is due to its high Refractive Index of 2.417. The Dia-Sim, with a Refractive Index of 1.718, captures much of this same brilliance. Equally important, the Dia-Sim, like a diamond, is *singly refractive*. Most other diamond simulations are doubly refractive — a characteristic that deprives them of the sharp, unblurred radiance of the natural stone.

Diamonds are traditionally cut with 58 facets, and for a very good reason: this configuration produces a series of *optically ideal* interior angles, so that the stone gives off the maximum amount of light and "fire." Some simulations are so difficult to work with that they must be cut with less than this ideal number of facets. *But every Dia-Sim is hand-cut with 58 precise facets . . . exactly like a priceless natural diamond!*

Finally, consider economy. Some diamond simulations range in price from \$40.00 (1 carat) to well over \$200.00 (6 carats). But the Dia-Sim is irresistibly priced at just \$6.00 (1 carat) to \$36.00 (6 carats) . . . so low that now ANYBODY can enjoy the thrill of owning and wearing expensive-looking jewelry!



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Youth Conferences Set

Five area conferences on Children and Youth are scheduled this year in which hundreds of volunteers will participate in discussing such subjects as alcohol and various youth and children development programs. Theme is "Making the Pieces Fit—A New Challenge."

Under the programs, which began nearly 50 years ago, The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Eight and Forty cooperate in working out problems involving youth and children. Dates and sites of this year's conferences are:

Middle Atlantic—Oct. 28-30, Holiday Inn, Martinsburg, WV; Midwestern—Nov. 18-20, Marriott Inn, Bloomington, MN; Western—Dec. 2-4, Cosmopolitan Hotel, Portland, OR; Southern—Jan. 13-15, Hilton Airport Inn, New Orleans, LA; and New England—Jan. 27-29, Ramada Inn, Burlington, VT.

Golf Tournament

Jim Hamilton, South Carolina adjutant, won low gross honors in the American Legion National Convention Golf Tournament at Seattle's Rainier Country Club. Hamilton also won the 1974 tournament at Doral Country Club in Miami.

NEW POSTS

The following new posts were recently chartered by The American Legion:

General John J. Pershing Post 1919, Florence, CO; Louis B. Russell Post 93, Indianapolis, IN; Mission Post 403, Mission, KS; Adair Post 99, Columbia, KY; Garyville Post 385, Garyville, LA; Robert W. Davis Post 291, Gaithersburg, MD; and Amelia Bicentennial Post 773, Amelia, OH.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41

Seattle a Legion Triumph

determine whether Cuban and Angolan troops have been sent to Panama.

2. Reaffirmed strong Legion opposition to any surrender of U.S. sovereignty over the Canal Zone and Panama Canal either through negotiation or compromise.

3. Asked the State Department to initiate a security committee within the Organization of American States to alert and warn about any communist influences or activities throughout the American Hemisphere.

4. Called for legislation providing greater protection of American intelligence agents in the field and making disclosure of their identities a treasonable act.

5. Noted a mutual need for a peaceful and constructive relationship and friendship with the oil producing states in the Middle East and Persian Gulf.

This was the first time the Legion considered the relationship with the oil-producing states by resolution.

Rogers defeated Edward T. Hoak of Pennsylvania, 2,710-373, after a year of spirited campaigning. Hoak is adjutant of the Department of Pennsylvania, the largest in the American Legion. Rogers is the first Legionnaire from Maine to head the organization. He has been vice president of the United States Brewers Association.

How the convention went was best summed up by a Legionnaire who said:

"This was the most serious and effective convention that I have attended and I've been to a lot of them."



Old Mr. Boston representation of Liberty Bell is official commemorative bottle for convention in Seattle

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For the fourth time since Armistice Day was re-designated Veterans Day in 1954, The American Legion will serve as the organizational host for this year's national ceremonies set for Monday, Oct. 25, at Arlington National Cemetery. The Legion's National Commander will introduce distinguished guests, while William Conrad, star of the popular TV series "Cannon," will serve as narrator. Traditional music will be furnished by the U.S. Army and Marine Corps bands.

Originally set as Armistice Day in 1926, Congress made it a national holiday in 1938. In 1954, Congress changed the name to Veterans Day to honor veterans of all U.S. wars. In 1968, Congress moved the official date from Nov. 11 to the fourth Monday in October to conform with establishment of three-day holiday weekends. By statute or proclamation, some states continue to observe Veterans Day Nov. 11.

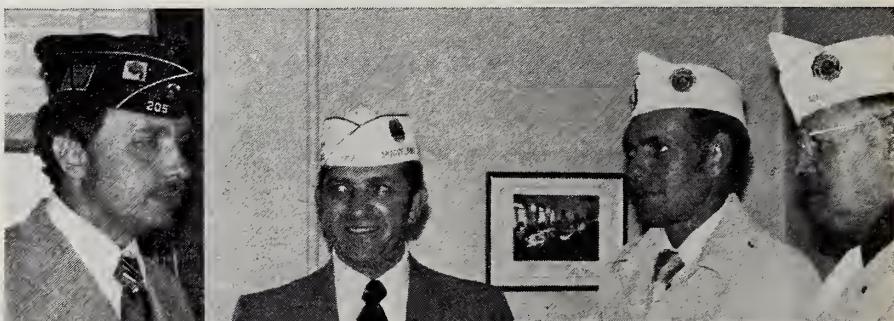
Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington and elsewhere in the Nation are co-ordinated by the President's Veterans Day National Committee. Chaired by the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, the group has an executive committee which includes representatives of ten national veterans organizations chartered by Congress. Each year, one of these organizations serves as host.

BIRMINGHAM HONORS NEIL ARMSTRONG

Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, will receive the distinguished veteran's award Nov. 11 at the Birmingham, AL, Veterans Day Observance. The national commander of the American Legion will be a featured speaker.

Birmingham spearheaded the Veterans Day idea shortly after World War II and its program has become one of the most recognized in the nation under direction of Legionnaire Raymond Weeks.

21,515 More Legionnaires! Over 16,000 Posts!



For 1976, The American Legion showed an individual membership increase of 21,515 over 1975, and for second year in row chartered more posts than were canceled for a total of more than 16,000. Shown here at 13th Annual Membership Workshop held in Indianapolis, are, left to right, Vietnam Veteran Robert W. Spanogle, new National Membership division director; and department commanders F. Douglas Johnson (MD), Richard Kaiser (IA), and LaVerne Leece (MI). More than 230 participated from 50 states, DC and PR. They heard National Commander Harry G. Wiles credit post activities at community levels with encouraging membership.

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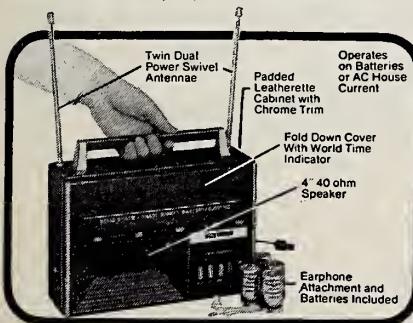
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The Carey Pipe may look like any ordinary pipe, but it's a lot different! In fact, there's nothing like it in the whole world. The Carey Pipe is made of the finest aged mediterranean briar—but, its big secret lies in the exclusive patented "MAGIC INCH," cleverly concealed in a bite proof nylon stem.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

Convention Quotes

"Only 20 per cent agree (with the Legion) that we should spend more for defense; almost 30 per cent feel we are spending too much; better than 40 per cent insist our military budget is "about right."

"Sixty per cent of the people polled bank on international agreements to limit nuclear weapons . . .

"Two-thirds of the public polled see Red China's prospects brighter in the next decade . . .

"Three out of four are for keeping the Panama Canal treaty just as it was originally signed, no ifs, ands or buts . . .

"The vote was three to one against amnesty . . .

"The question of cost-of-living adjustments for veterans' pensions was not put directly to the public (but) two of three urge cutbacks in government spending . . .

"There is growing support for a national health plan, up 10 percent in one year. It seems the Legion has a big selling job to keep VA hospitals the exclusive preserve of disabled veterans . . .

"The task is to keep hammering away . . . Just because they are (or are not) with us today, doesn't necessarily mean they will (or will not) be with us tomorrow . . ."

Rep. Mike McCormack (D-WA): Stressing the need for nuclear power expansion and development of coal, oil, solar, thermal and natural gas resources—"we must set intelligent and responsible goals now for the 21st Century. I would favor establishing a cabinet level post for energy."

Ambassador James Shen, Republic of China: "I am among friends. I don't have to resort to diplomatic doublespeak . . . we have been living under the shadow of worsening relations between the Republic of China and the U.S. . . . The word is around Washington that either a Ford or a Carter administration will seek formal recognition of mainland China and eventually sever ties with Taiwan. This is a serious course to consider when Mao Tse-Tung is a dying man and no one can predict Peking's future."

VA Administrator Richard Roudabush: "This year America will spend nearly \$20 billion on programs for veterans . . . the staffing ratio will be 174 employes for each 100 patients . . . The fiscal 1976 construction budget was a record \$403 million; fiscal 1977 will set another record—\$478 million."

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

CAMEL DRIVER

appointed,' she recalls. 'See if you can't work out something . . .'

Liz did.

Bashir Ahmed was an engaging fellow, with a handlebar mustache that was the pride of the Society of Pakistani Barbers and a sparkling, toothy grin that captivated all with whom he came in contact. He was the perfect foil for Johnson's enigmatic thrusts. And Johnson did not forget him. So long as LBJ lived, Bashir Ahmed was a special ward of the American Embassy in Pakistan. The Embassy even leased the pickup truck which Bashir had never learned to drive. This provided Bashir with an income of 300 rupees a month, then the equivalent of \$60. It was a handsome stipend in a country where the per capita income was \$40 a year.

The old Ford truck was turned back to Bashir some years ago, before LBJ died in January 1973. Its fate now must be intertwined at best in the lofty reaches of the camel's Valhalla, or at the worst a rusting hulk in the sizzling sands of the Sind Desert surrounding Karachi.

Bashir Ahmed is not unintelligent, if illiterate. He is bright, pleasant and knew how to take advantage of his fame in Pakistan. When he was interviewed by reporters, for example, prior to his departure for the United States, he was asked how many children he had.

"I have four children," he replied. "Three sons and a daughter, who is like spring among the seasons."

He would stroll through the American embassy after his triumphal tour of the States, asking "how is my friend Johnson." He corresponded regularly with the Vice President and later President, hiring a professional letter writer to put his words on paper.

When the American Consulate in Karachi opened a "Book of Condolence" on the death of Lyndon Johnson, his friend Bashir Ahmed, the camel driver, was the first to sign.

Lyndon Johnson brought fame to Bashir Ahmed. With Johnson's passing came a return to obscurity, an unnoticed life near Karachi—except on those days when an itinerant American correspondent remembers Lyndon's camel driver.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer was a U.S. Information Agency Officer in Pakistan in 1961.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Where Patriots Played

"ye fam'd warm springs" on a visit to the area in 1748 with a surveying team of Lord Fairfax.

Sponsors of the Bicentennial George Washington Country Heritage Trail unearthed one mid-18th century traveler's account that described this scene:

"A large hollow scooped in the sand, surrounded by a screen of pine brush, was the bathing house; this was used alternately by the ladies and the gentlemen. The whole scene resembled a camp meeting in appearance, but only in appearance. Here, day and night passed in a round of eating, drinking, bathing, fiddling, dancing and reveling. Gambling was carried on to great excess and horse racing was a daily amusement."

During a visit in 1761, after an illness, Washington found the waters helpful, but commented that "I am of the opinion that numbers get more hurt by the manner of living, than the waters can do them good."

An itinerant Methodist missionary named Francis Asbury arrived in 1776 to treat a throat ailment, but was so disturbed by carryings-on that he launched a preaching campaign. Accounts of the day do not record his success or failure.

Also in 1776, the area around the springs was given the town name of Bath, a reference, no doubt, to Britain's famous spa. Bath remains the official name of the community, but for the past century or more the name Berkeley Springs has been in general use.

Washington, Independence, Liberty and Fairfax streets recall Bath's Revolutionary War period.

A series of fires in the 1800's wiped out most of the original structures. A wall still stands where a house once sheltered invalided soldiers of the Continental Army; and a plaque marks the site of a house once occupied by President Washington, a home that might be termed the first summer White House.

Today, most visitors to the area are attracted by the Charles Town race tracks and the golf course at Cacapon State Park, but the mineral baths continue to flow at a rate of 2,000 gallons a minute and a constant temperature of 74 degrees. Some historians believe that Indian tales of their curative powers reached the Spanish in Florida in the 16th century and sparked Ponce de Leon's vain quest for "the fountain of youth."

—G. M. Lowe

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Also Louis Byerly, Jeannette, PA. (Post 344); John Kiley, Fort Washington, PA. (Post 10); John P. Ralph, Williamstown, PA. (Post 239); Meade Williams, Edinboro, PA. (Post 285); Frank Stricker, Philadelphia, PA. (Post 133); James Sykes, Pittsburgh, PA. (Post 613).

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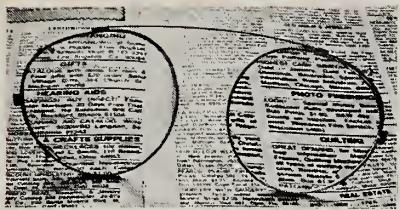
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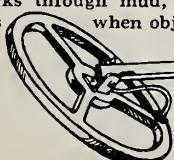


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Parting Shots



Just as I thought, money is the one word he didn't misspell!

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

SALVATION

A sidewalk interviewer asked a man what he thought of the two candidates running for office.

"When I look at them," the man replied, "I'm thankful only one of them can get elected."

—THOMAS LA MANCE

GREAT REASONING

On the evening of his teenage daughter's first date with her new boyfriend, a father became increasingly apprehensive. "Are you sure he's a good driver?" he asked.

"Yes, Daddy," the girl replied quickly, "he has to be. One more citation and he loses his license."

—LANE OLINGHOUSE

BACK SEAT DRIVER

A man telephoned the police station to say that his steering wheel, brake pedal and accelerator had been stolen.

Before the police could investigate, the telephone rang again. It was the same man.

"Don't bother coming," he said as soberly as he could manage. "I got into the back seat by mistake."

—LUCILLE S. HARPER

HOME WORK

A senator's wife finds that those Washington scandals have been a boon to her. It's been weeks now since her husband has had to stay at the Capitol for filibuster.

—EDWARD STEVENSON

TAXING THOUGHT

The first natural resource to be exhausted in this country may be the taxpayer.

—SAMUEL J. STANNARD

SAGELY STATED

He who gives advice may be avoided, but he who makes laughter will never be lonely.

—LYMAN L. ROSS

MY HOME TOWN

My home town is a small town. As most folks define small But to me it will always be The number one town of all.

I was born and raised here My kids were too, you see. So if I sound partial to it, That was intended to be.

Small town folks are friendly. They know each other by name. About our big city cousins, We could never say the same.

When I die and go to Heaven, As some day I trust I will do, I hope if there are any small towns, I will live in one up there too.

—JACK ALLISON

KEY TO SITUATION

Nowadays when a son follows in his father's footsteps he's probably after the keys to the family car.

—HERM ALBRIGHT

MY BASKET RUNNETH OVER

I used to think a picnic was A loaf, a jug, and thou But here with all this extra stuff I know we're married now.

—R. C. SHEBELSKI

CAR-AHOLIC

Everyone's trying to find a car that will quit smoking, but I'd like to find one that will quit drinking!

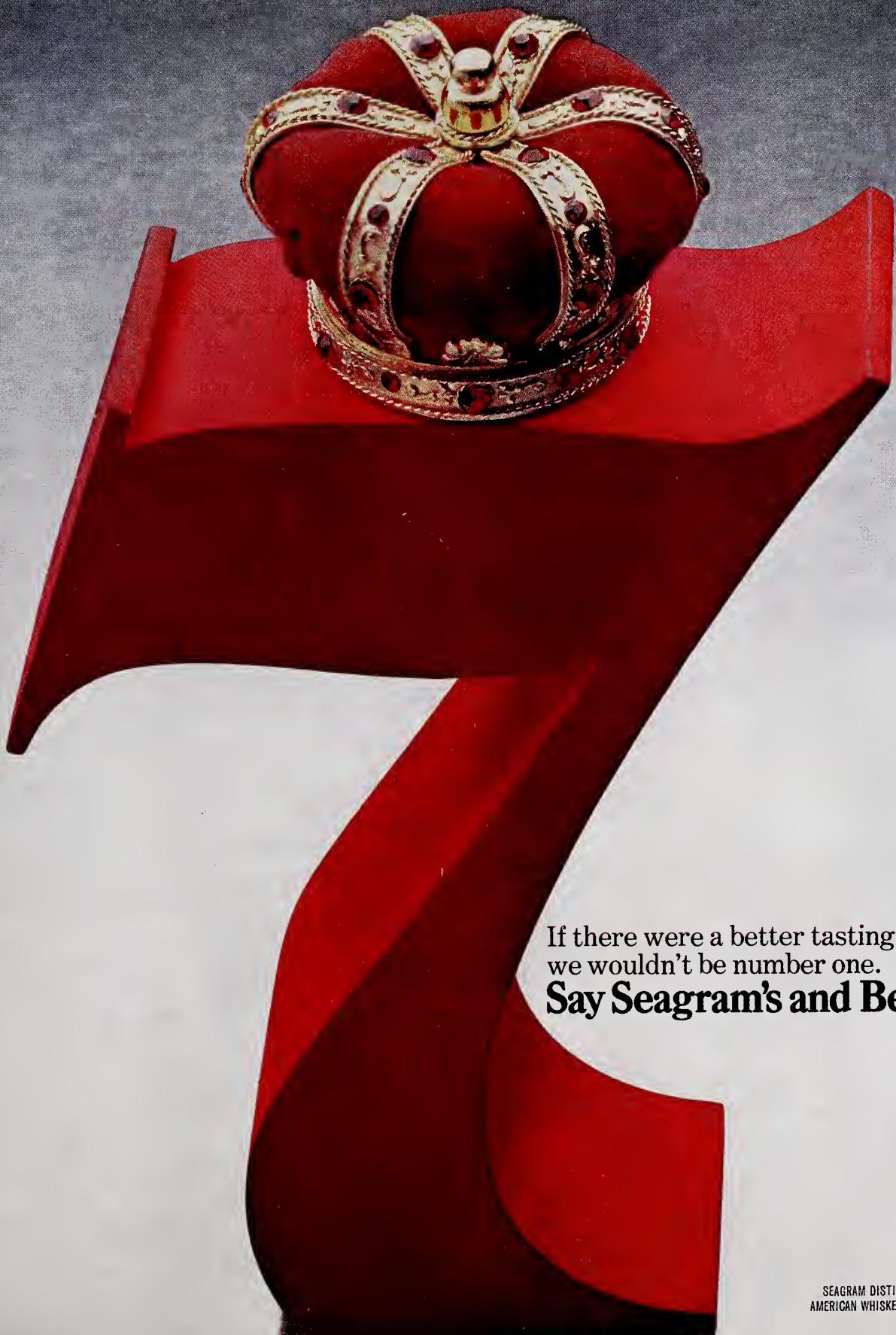
—SAMUEL J. STANNARD



It's an absentee ballot!

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

They don't crown number two.



If there were a better tasting whiskey,
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It's a fact! This same new upper material is now serving full active duty with officers and men of the United States Marine Corps for their inspections, ceremonies, and parades. You'll say "no wonder" when you see the shine, feel the comfort, and pocket the savings!

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ever so gently to accomodate every foot movement, and never feel stiff.

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GUARANTEE: Wear them! Test them! Then if not delighted, return them to Haband for full refund of every penny you paid us!

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Street

City

State & ZIP

IS YOUR SIZE ON THIS CHART?

	5	5 1/2	6	6 1/2	7	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	9	9 1/2	10	10 1/2	11	12	13
A											✓	✓	✓		
B		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
E		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EEE		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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